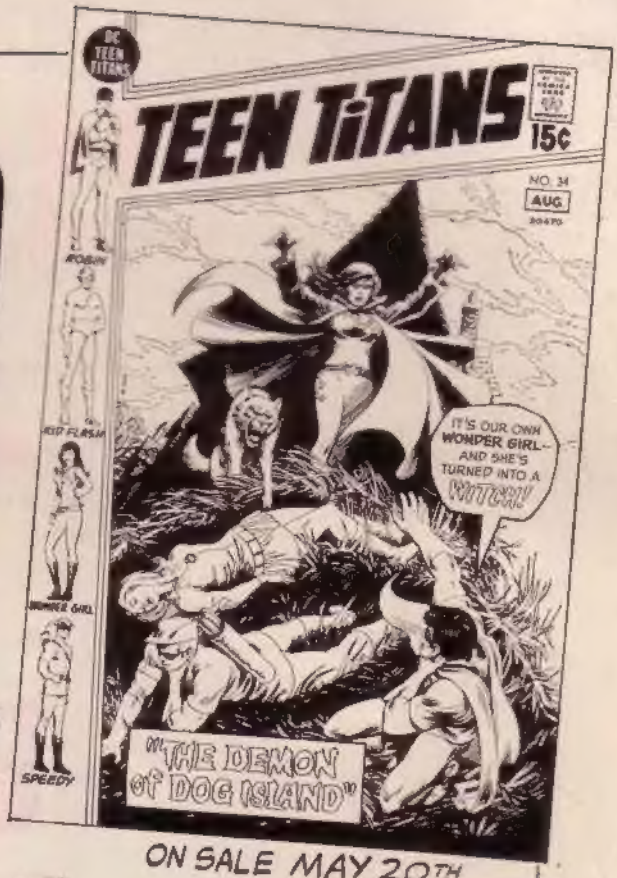
TWO GREAT HITS...



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THE CRIME OF BRUCE WAYNE!
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BRUCE WAYNE
THE UNMASKING OF BRUCE WAYNE!
WHO IS THE OTHER BRUCE WAYNE?
THE MURDER OF BRUCE WAYNE!

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GIANT BATMAN

FEATURING HIS SECRET IDENTITY, BRUCE WAYNE

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Every man in this strange club has been pronounced dead—and revived. Now, death is coming to claim the men who cheated it. To crack the case, **Bruce Wayne** must join the club . . . and to do that, he must **die!**

THE OTHER BRUCE WAYNE 15
Meet the man for whom our **Bruce Wayne** was named—a great detective! How can the **Batman** keep his identity a secret from his cousin, when the other **Bruce Wayne** is staying in his home?

THE MURDER OF BRUCE WAYNE 24
Even the **Batman** seems stymied when a killer sets out to avenge himself on the men he hates. Despite the presence of the **Masked Manhunter**, one victim after another falls . . . until only one remains . . . **Bruce Wayne!**

BRUCE WAYNE'S AUNT AGATHA 40
Never has the **Batman** come up against trouble like this—when his aunt unmasks him in front of some of **Gotham City**'s top criminals!

THE CRIME OF BRUCE WAYNE 48
Bruce Wayne is in the death house—awaiting execution for murder! The one man who can save him lies in a coma! How can **Robin** and **Batwoman** prove his innocence in time?

GIANT BATMAIL 61
Your response to our last **Giant Batman!**

N-305

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BATMAN
With
ROBIN
THE BOY WONDER
IT IS SAID THAT ALL MEN WHO CHEAT ARE EVENTUALLY CAUGHT—AND THAT CHEATING SHOWS! BUT WHAT OF THE MEN WHO CHEAT DEATH?! DO THEY ESCAPE WITH THEIR GAINS—OR ARE THEY, TOO, DESTINED TO BE CAUGHT, IN A GRIM PAY-OFF? YOU'LL FIND THE ANSWER HERE—IN THIS STORY OF MEN WHO DARED ROLL THE DICE WITH DEATH! MEN LIKE BRUCE WAYNE—CAUGHT UP IN HIS MOST FANTASTIC ADVENTURE! MEN LIKE BATMAN AND ROBIN, WHOSE DESTINIES ARE UNALTERABLY LINKED WITH—
"The DEATH-CHEATERS OF GOTHAM CITY!"
WAYNE
GRANT
DUFF
DRUCK
SAWYER
BOB KANE
ART BY: JIM MOONEY
FROM: BATMAN # 72 (AUG.-SEPT., 1952)

ONE NIGHT, A STRANGE NEW CLUB CONVENES IN GOTHAM CITY...

A CLUB COMPOSED OF "DEAD" MEN!

WE LIVE AGAIN

JOHN GRANT- DIED JUNE 8, 1938
JEFF SIEVERS- DIED FEB. 3, 1940
HACK DAWES- DIED AUG. 11, 1945
TOM WEAVER- DIED JAN 11, 1950
STANLEY DUFF- DIED FEB. 6, 1951
JIM SAWYER- DIED FEB. 8, 1951
[illegible]ICK- DIED MARCH 9, 1951

GENTLEMEN! THE FIRST MEETING OF THE *DEATH-CHEATERS'* CLUB WILL NOW COME TO ORDER!

YES... *DEATH-CHEATERS!* THESE ARE MEN LIVING ON BORROWED TIME -- EACH OF THEM ONCE *ACTUALLY DIED*... BUT WAS LATER BROUGHT BACK MIRACULOUSLY TO LIFE! AND HERE THEY ARE...

CASE #1--*JOHN HEDGES GRANT.* SPORTSMAN--ATTACKED BY COBRA, JUNE 11, 1938--PRONOUNCED DEAD BY EXPEDITION DOCTOR--REVIVED 11 MINUTES LATER BY INJECTION OF NATIVE SERUM.

CASE #2--*JEFF SIEVERS,* ACCOUNTANT--EPILEPSY VICTIM, SUFFERED ATTACK DURING GOLF GAME IN 1940--PRONOUNCED LEGALLY DEAD BY CLUB PHYSICIAN--REVIVED, UNAIDED, 20 MINUTES LATER!

SIEVERS! WHAT'S HAPPENED?

CASE #3--*HACK DAWES,* TRUCK DRIVER--STRUCK BY LIGHTNING, AUG. 11, 1945--HEART STOPPED, PRONOUNCED DEAD--REVIVED BY PULMOTOR 23 MINUTES LATER!

TOM WEAVER WRITER--*DROWNED!*

GREGORY ORRICK, ACTOR--*POISONED!*

STANLEY DUFF, BANKER--*GASSED!*

JIM SAWYER STEVEDORE--*ELECTROCUTED*

AND THESE ARE OTHER MEMBERS, BROUGHT BACK FROM "DEATH" BY THE WIZARDRY OF MODERN SCIENCE!

YES--A *BIZARRE* CLUB, OFF TO A GOOD START--UNMINDFUL OF THE *BIZARRE* FATE THAT AWAITS IT!

WEAVER- DIED JAN. 9, 19
EY DUFF- DIED FEB. 6, 19
M SAWYER- DIED FEB. 8, 195
ORRICK- DIED MAR. 9, 1951

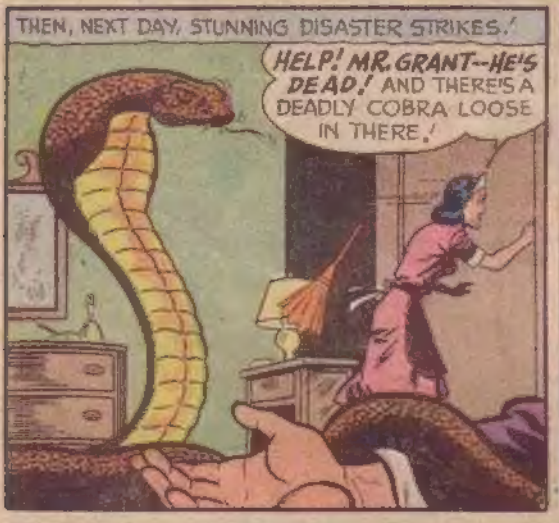
WELL, GENTLEMEN, OUR FIRST MEETING -- REALLY JUST A GET-TOGETHER -- HAS BEEN A COMPLETE SUCCESS! WE'LL MEET REGULARLY FROM NOW ON.

A FEW EVENINGS LATER, IN THE BAT-CAVE UNDER THE HOME OF MILLIONAIRE BRUCE WAYNE AND HIS WARD, DICK GRAYSON...
YOU'RE RIGHT, BRUCE -- THOSE WING MODIFICATIONS CERTAINLY IMPROVE THE JET PERFORMANCE OF THE BATPLANE!
YES -- WE'LL MAKE THE CHANGES AT ONCE...
SUDDENLY A RED LIGHT BLINKS RAPIDLY ON A NEARBY WALL PANEL!
OH-OH! OUR RECEPTOR BEAMS HAVE PICKED UP THE BAT-SIGNAL!
THIS IS ONE TIME WHEN A RED LIGHT MEANS GO -- FOR BATMAN AND ROBIN!
IN A MOMENT, THE BOY AND MAN HAVE MADE A COMPLETE TRANSFORMATION -- STREAKING TOWARD POLICE HEADQUARTERS IN THE AWESOME GARB OF BATMAN AND ROBIN!
GANG WAR, BATMAN! ATOP THE REINICH BREWERY! GET OVER THERE RIGHT AWAY!
YOU HEARD THE MAN, ROBIN! LET'S GO!
MOMENTS LATER...
IT'S LITTLE DOUGY AND JOEY THE ROD! THEY'VE RENEWED THEIR FEUD!
AND LITTLE DOUGY'S BEEN HIT! LOOK!
THAT'S ALL, JOEY! FROM NOW ON YOU'LL BE FEUDING WITH SOME THICK PRISON WALLS!

LATER, AT MUNICIPAL HOSPITAL...
WE'VE REMOVED THE SLUGS--BUT TOO LATE.' HIS HEART STOPPED--LITTLE DOUGY IS DEAD.'
HMM--AND HE WAS RELEASED FROM PRISON ONLY YESTERDAY. HIS FREEDOM WAS SHORT-LIVED.'
DOCTOR--WE'VE STILL GOT A ONE-IN-A-MILLION CHANCE.' I'D LIKE TO TRY A HEART-MASSAGE.'
GO AHEAD, SON.' NURSE, LEND A HAND HERE.'
AND SOON AFTER...
IT WORKED.' HIS PULSE-BEAT IS BACK--WEAK, BUT STEADY.'
A MIRACLE.' I'VE HEARD ABOUT SUCH CASES--BUT I NEVER THOUGHT I'D SEE ONE.'
IMAGINE.' A MAN LEGALLY AND OFFICIALLY PRONOUNCED DEAD.' AND TEN MINUTES LATER, HE COMES BACK TO THE LIVING.'
AND A FEW MORNINGS LATER, WITH THE PATIENT ALMOST FULLY RECOVERED...
YOU SURE ARE LUCKY, DOUGY! THINK OF IT.' YOU WAS ACTUALLY DEAD! AND HERE YOU ARE, ALIVE AND KICKIN'.'
YEAH--AND MY LUCK'S STILL HOLDIN'.' LOOK AT THIS.' SEEMS LIKE I'M ELIGIBLE FOR A LOAD OF DOUGH.'
SAAY.' YOU'RE RIGHT, DOUGY.' YOU KIN JOIN THAT CLUB.'
AND THAT'S JUST WHAT I'M GONNA DO--SOON AS I CHECK OUTA THIS HOSPITAL.'
GOTHAM NEWS
HOLLYWOOD NEGOTIATING FOR STORY OF GOTHAM CITY'S "DEATH-CHEATERS" CLUB
UNIQUE ORGANIZATION, OPEN ONLY TO MEN WHO ACTUALLY "DIED" AND WERE THEN BROUGHT BACK TO LIFE, HAS BEEN OFFERED $100,000 FOR MOVIE RIGHTS. MEMBERS TO SHARE EQUALLY.
BEGINNING IN JUNE YOU WILL SEE THE DARING, THE DIFFERENT AND THE NEW!

BUT A FEW DAY LATER...
I'M SORRY, LITTLE DOUGY--BUT OUR DECISION IS FINAL! YOUR APPLICATION FOR MEMBERSHIP HAS BEEN UNANIMOUSLY TURNED DOWN.!
BUT THAT AIN'T RIGHT! I QUALIFY FOR THIS CLUB! I WAS LIKE THE REST OF YA.!
WE LIVE
JOHN GRANT-
DIED JUNE 8, 1938
JEFF SIEVERS-
JACK DAW
TOM WES
STANLE
JIM SAYR
DIED?
GREG ORRI
DIED

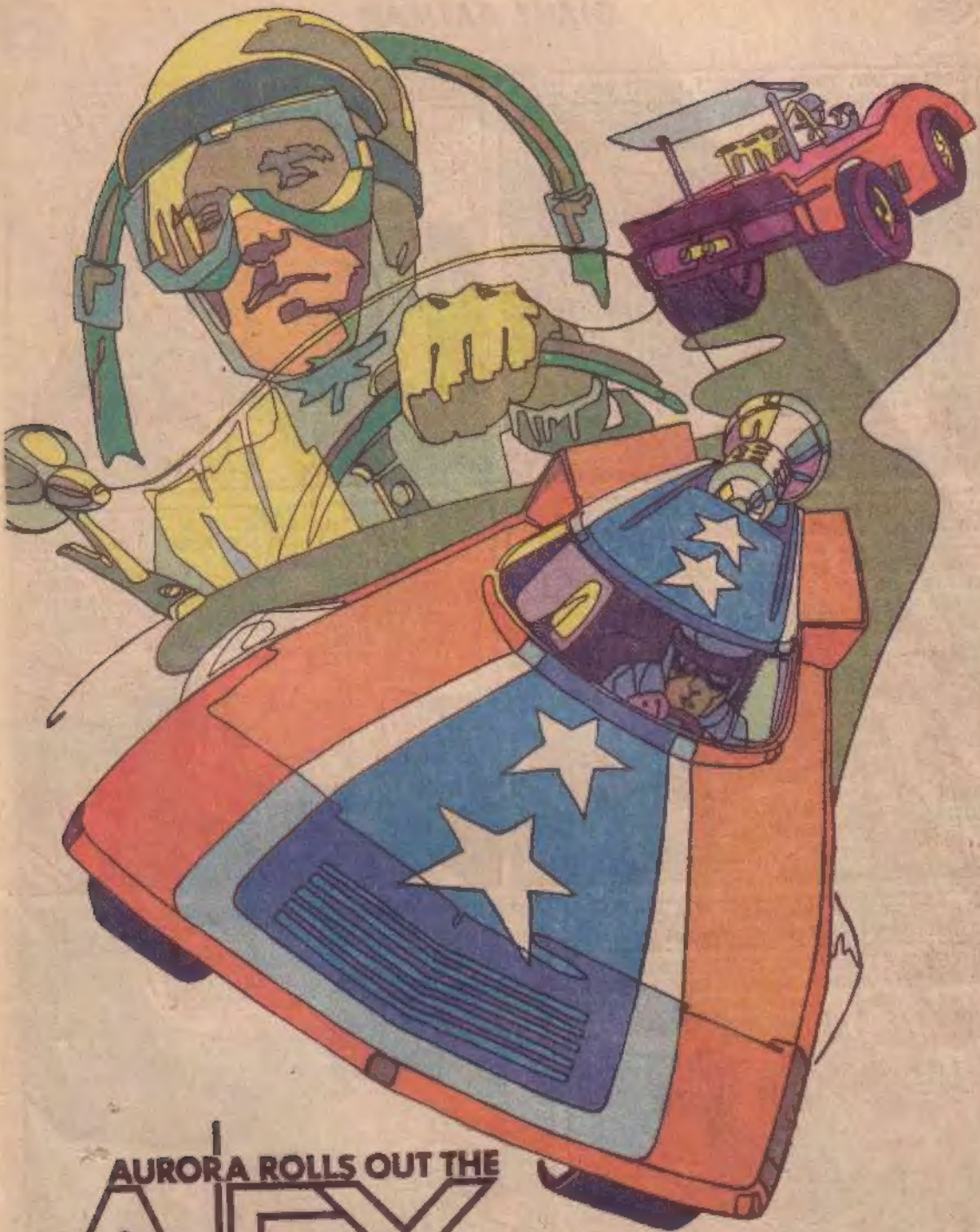
YOU HAVE A LONG CRIMINAL RECORD! WE CAN'T TAKE CHANCES. UNTIL WE SEE THAT YOU'RE GOING STRAIGHT, YOU CANNOT JOIN!
I'LL GET YOU FOR THIS! YOU'RE CHEATING ME OUT OF REAL DOUGH! AND NOBODY CHEATS LITTLE DOUGY.!


THEN, NEXT DAY, STUNNING DISASTER STRIKES.!
HELP! MR. GRANT--HE'S DEAD! AND THERE'S A DEADLY COBRA LOOSE IN THERE.!

AND LATER, WHEN POLICE ARRIVE...
HMM--IT'S MURDER, ALL RIGHT! JUST LOOK AT THIS NOTE.! THAT SNAKE POISONED HIM--BUT THIS TIME NO ONE WAS AROUND TO ADMINISTER AN ANTIDOTE IN TIME TO REVIVE HIM.!
You cheated Death, too, Grant, just as you cheated me! But you won't cheat us twice!

AND SCARCELY SIX HOURS LATER, IN THE HOME OF JEFF SIEVERS...
HE'S DEAD, ALL RIGHT.! VICTIM OF AN EPILEPTIC FIT--OBVIOUSLY BROUGHT ON BY THE TERRIFIC STRUGGLE HE HAD WITH SOMEONE.!
THAT SOMEONE LEFT ANOTHER ONE OF THESE DEATH NOTES.! I'D BETTER GET RIGHT TO COMMISSIONER GORDON.!
5

LATER...
A GRISLY BUSINESS, THIS.! SOMEONE'S RE-CREATING THE WAY THESE MEN ORIGINALLY "DIED"--BUT THIS TIME THE DEATHS ARE PERMANENT.!
I'VE SPOKEN TO THE OTHER CLUB MEMBERS.! FROM WHAT THEY TELL ME, LITTLE DOUGY IS OUR MAN.! BATMAN--GET ON THIS CASE AT ONCE.!
CONTINUED ON 2ND PAGE FOLLOWING



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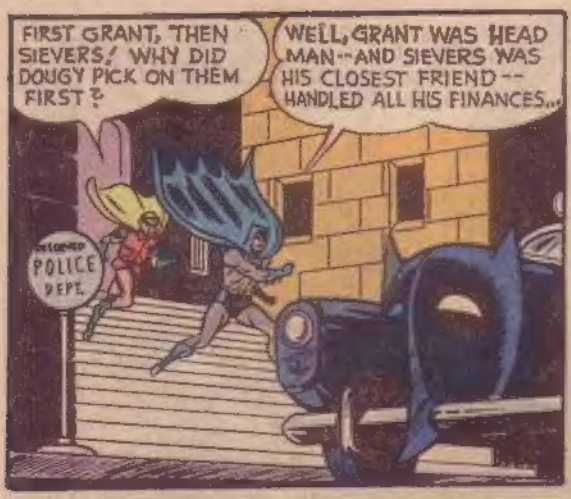
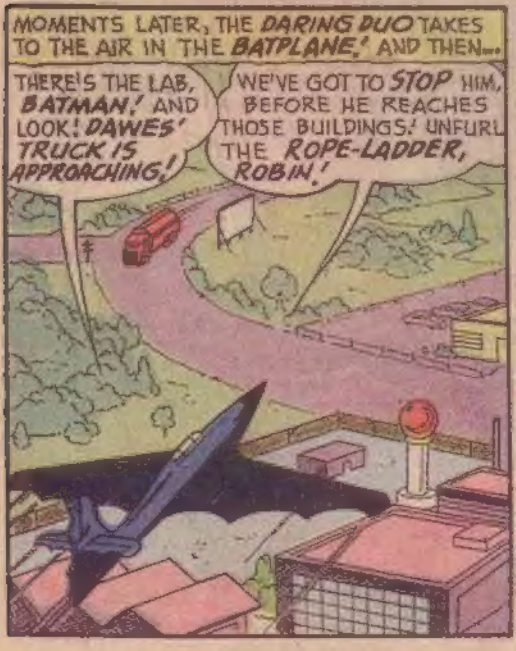

FIRST GRANT, THEN SIEVERS! WHY DID DOUGY PICK ON THEM FIRST?
WELL, GRANT WAS HEAD MAN--AND SIEVERS WAS HIS CLOSEST FRIEND--HANDLED ALL HIS FINANCES...
POLICE DEPT.

SUDDENLY! BATMAN! HELP ME-- HELP ME! I'M MRS. DAWES! THIS NOTE JUST CAME TO MY HUSBAND, BUT HE HAD ALREADY LEFT IN THE TRUCK! OH, SAVE HIM, BATMAN!
HACK DAWES' WIFE! LET'S SEE THAT NOTE!

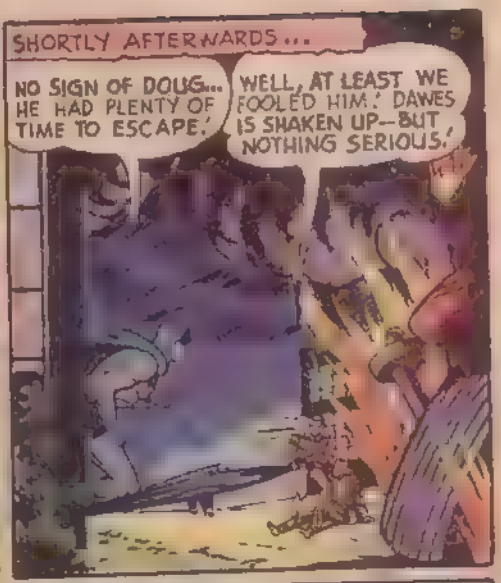
BUT DAWES WAS STRUCK BY LIGHTNING! AND THERE'S NO ELECTRIC STORM AROUND AT ALL! THE ORIGINAL DEATH-SCENE CAN'T BE RE-STAGED!
NEVER SAY CAN'T, ROBIN! COME ON--WE'RE GOING TO DAWES' TRUCKING COMPANY OFFICES! AND EVERY MOMENT COUNTS!
YOU'RE NEXT, DAWES--TONIGHT!

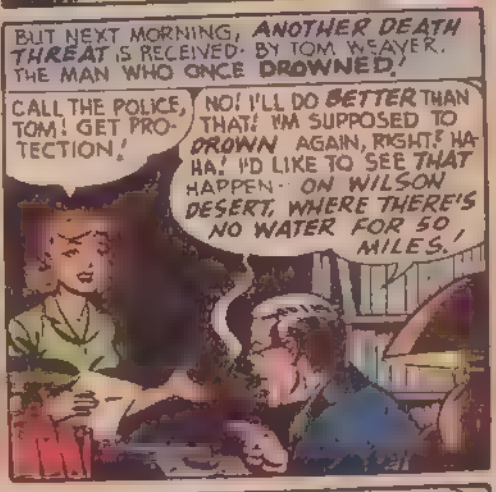
SOON AFTER...
HERE'S WHAT YOU ASKED FOR, BATMAN! THE DOTTED LINE REPRESENTS DAWES' ROUTE. IT'S A REGULAR RUN HE MAKES TWICE A MONTH...
JUST AS I THOUGHT! HIS ROUTE LEADS RIGHT PAST THE GOTHAM ELECTRIC LABORATORIES--WHERE MAN-MADE LIGHTNING IS EASILY ACCOMPLISHED!

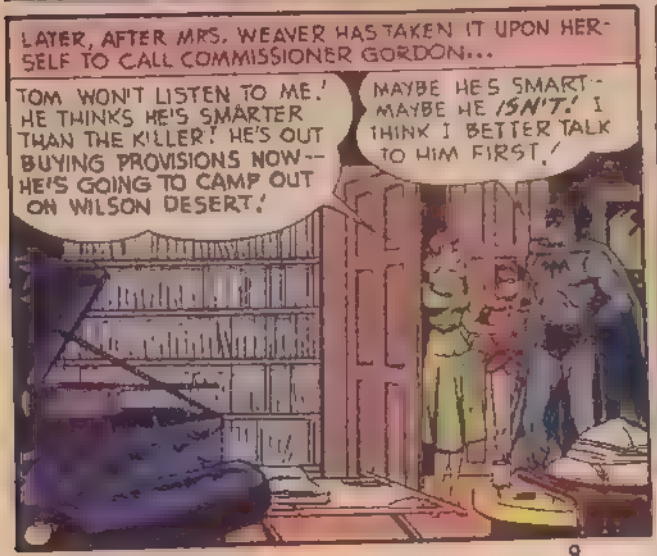

MOMENTS LATER, THE DARING DUO TAKES TO THE AIR IN THE BATPLANE! AND THEN...
THERE'S THE LAB, BATMAN! AND LOOK! DAWES' TRUCK IS APPROACHING!
WE'VE GOT TO STOP HIM, BEFORE HE REACHES THOSE BUILDINGS! UNFURL THE ROPE-LADDER, ROBIN!

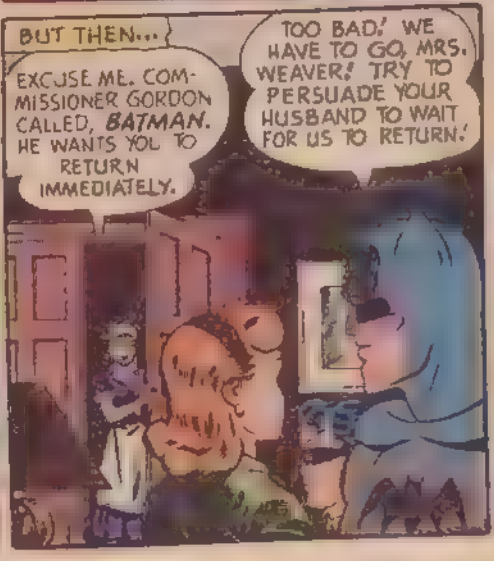
HE'LL NEVER STOP IN TIME!
JUMP, DAWES--GET OUT OF THAT TRUCK!

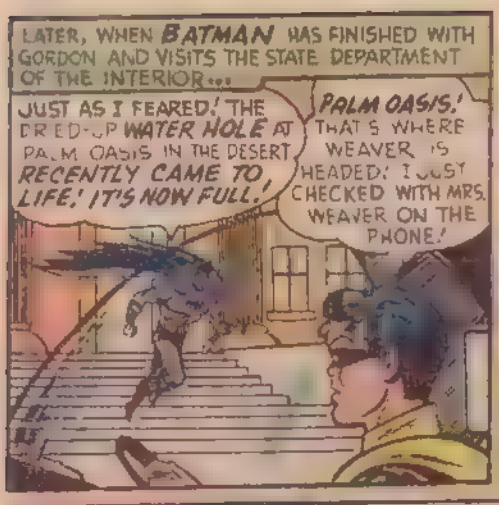
AND AS THE BEWILDERED TRUCK DRIVER OBEYS AT THE VERY LAST MOMENT...
NOW! WE GOT HIM OUT JUST IN TIME!

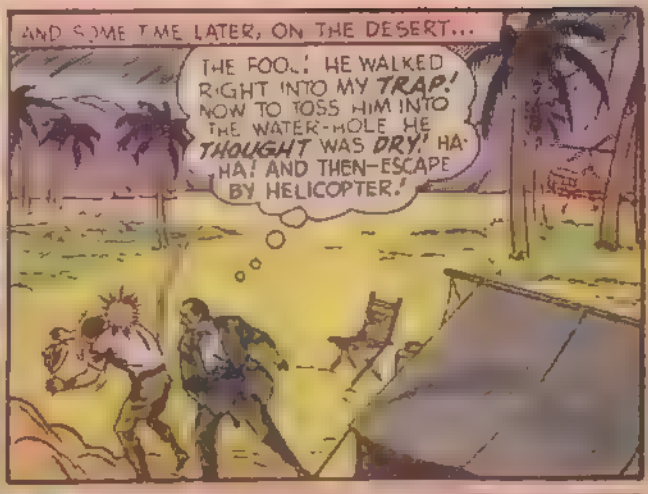

SHORTLY AFTERWARDS...
NO SIGN OF DOUG... HE HAD PLENTY OF TIME TO ESCAPE!
WELL, AT LEAST WE FOOLED HIM! DAWES IS SHAKEN UP--BUT NOTHING SERIOUS!


BUT NEXT MORNING, ANOTHER DEATH THREAT IS RECEIVED BY TOM WEAVER, THE MAN WHO ONCE DROWNED!
CALL THE POLICE, TOM! GET PROTECTION!
NO! I'LL DO BETTER THAN THAT! I'M SUPPOSED TO DROWN AGAIN, RIGHT? HA HA! I'D LIKE TO SEE THAT HAPPEN ON WILSON DESERT, WHERE THERE'S NO WATER FOR 50 MILES.

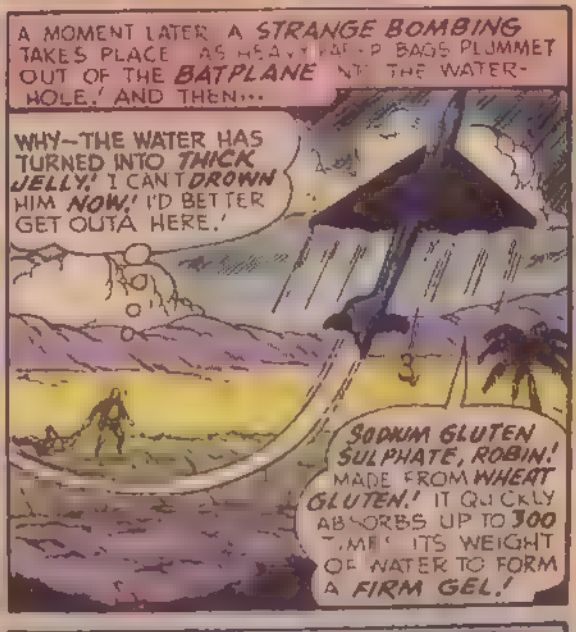

LATER, AFTER MRS. WEAVER HAS TAKEN IT UPON HERSELF TO CALL COMMISSIONER GORDON...
TOM WON'T LISTEN TO ME! HE THINKS HE'S SMARTER THAN THE KILLER! HE'S OUT BUYING PROVISIONS NOW--HE'S GOING TO CAMP OUT ON WILSON DESERT!
MAYBE HE'S SMART--MAYBE HE ISN'T! I THINK I BETTER TALK TO HIM FIRST!

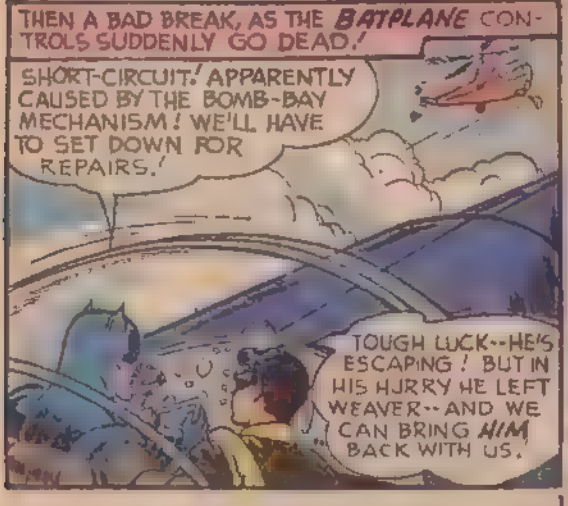

BUT THEN...
EXCUSE ME. COMMISSIONER GORDON CALLED, BATMAN. HE WANTS YOU TO RETURN IMMEDIATELY.
TOO BAD! WE HAVE TO GO, MRS. WEAVER! TRY TO PERSUADE YOUR HUSBAND TO WAIT FOR US TO RETURN!

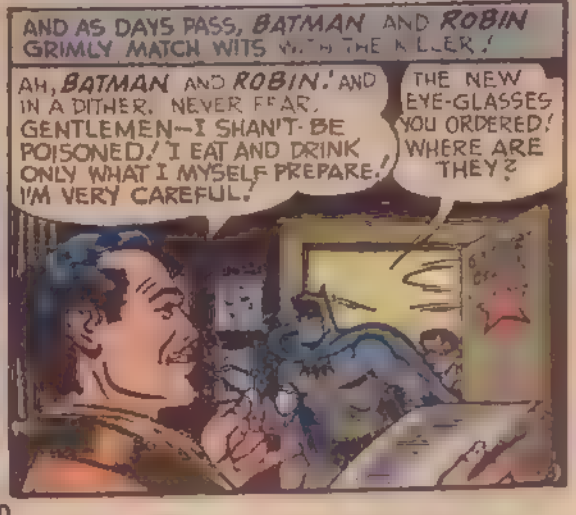

LATER, WHEN BATMAN HAS FINISHED WITH GORDON AND VISITS THE STATE DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR...
JUST AS I FEARED! THE DRIED-UP WATER HOLE AT PALM OASIS IN THE DESERT RECENTLY CAME TO LIFE! IT'S NOW FULL!
PALM OASIS! THAT'S WHERE WEAVER IS HEADED! I JUST CHECKED WITH MRS. WEAVER ON THE PHONE!

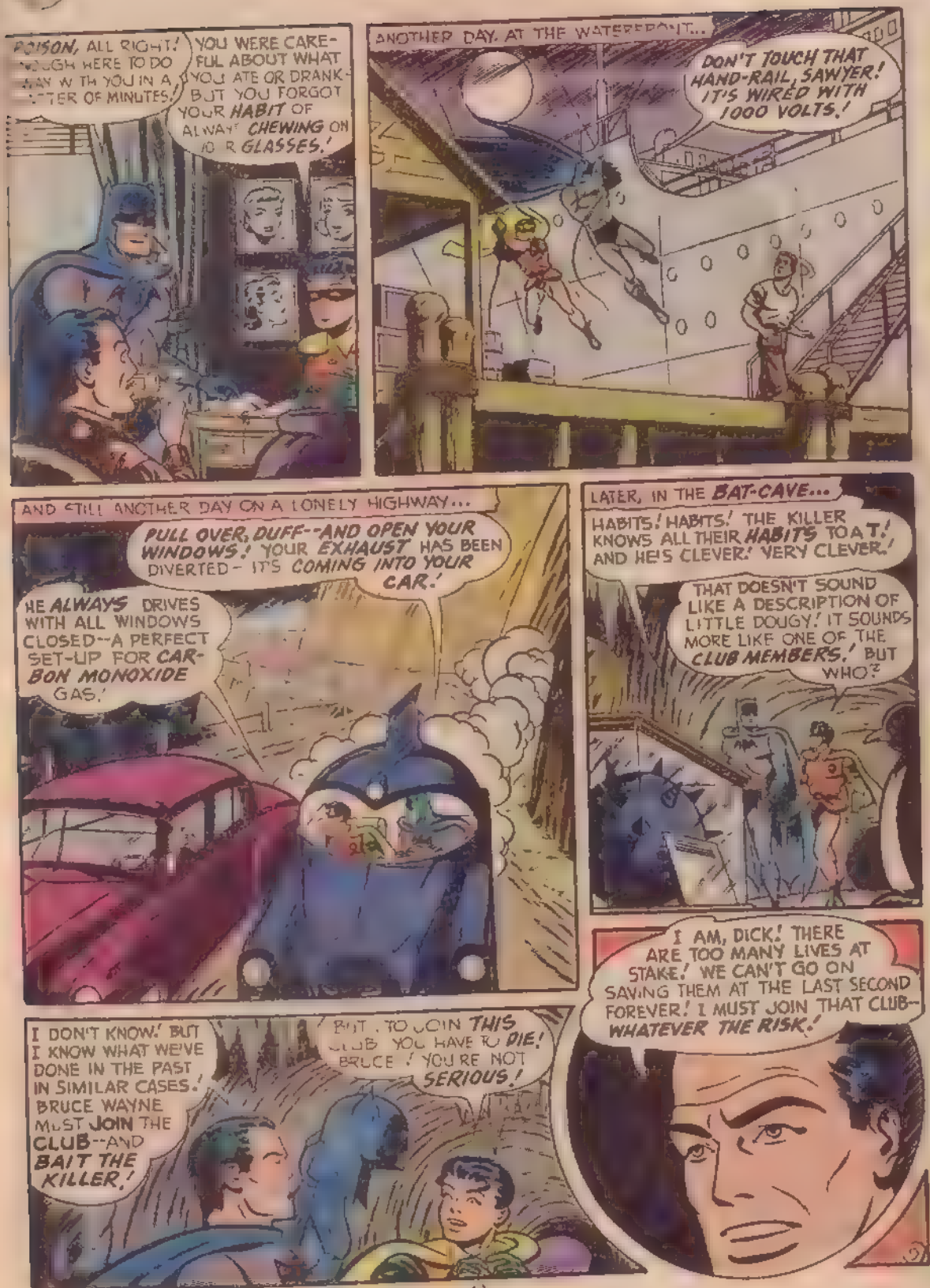

AND SOME TIME LATER, ON THE DESERT...
THE FOOL! HE WALKED RIGHT INTO MY TRAP! NOW TO TOSS HIM INTO THE WATER-HOLE HE THOUGHT WAS DRY! HA-HA! AND THEN—ESCAPE BY HELICOPTER!

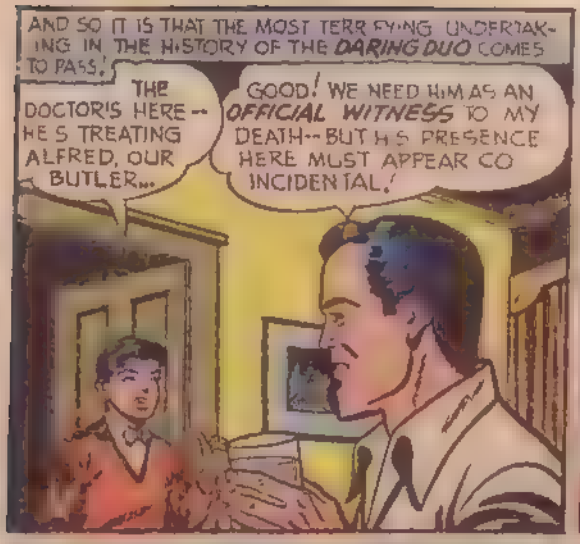
JUST THEN!
LOOK! BY THE TIME WE GET DOWN THERE, WEAVER WILL BE DROWNED!
QUICKLY, ROBIN! THOSE LARGE PAPER BAGS I STOWED ABOARD! SHOVE THEM INTO THE EMERGENCY BOMB-BAY!

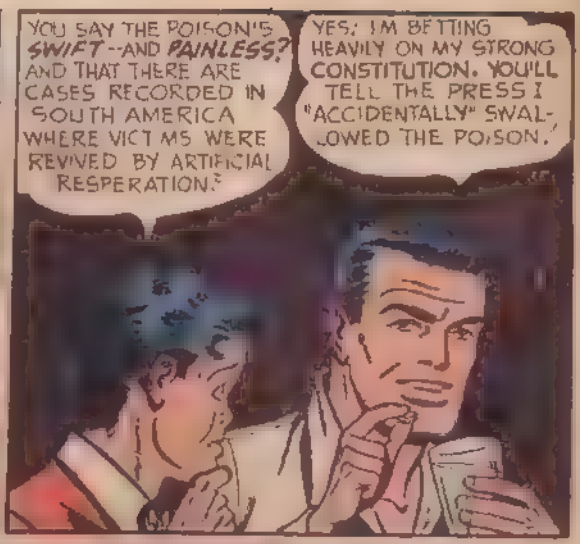

A MOMENT LATER A STRANGE BOMBING TAKES PLACE AS HEAVY PAPER BAGS PLUMMET OUT OF THE BATPLANE INTO THE WATER-HOLE! AND THEN...
WHY—THE WATER HAS TURNED INTO THICK JELLY! I CAN'T DROWN HIM NOW! I'D BETTER GET OUTA HERE!
SODIUM GLUTEN SULPHATE, ROBIN! MADE FROM WHEAT GLUTEN! IT QUICKLY ABSORBS UP TO 300 TIMES ITS WEIGHT OF WATER TO FORM A FIRM GEL!

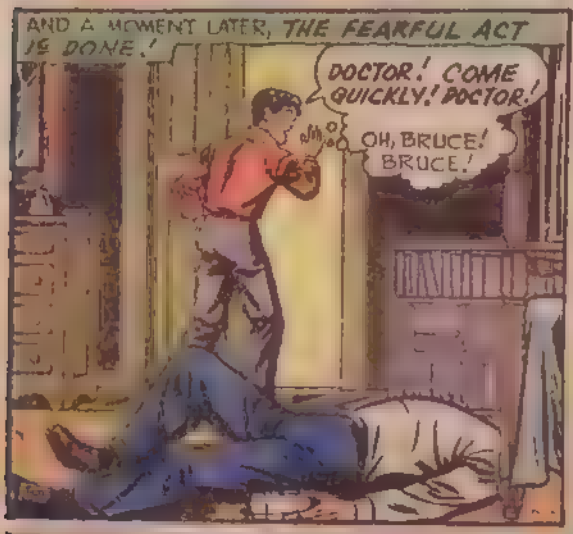

THEN A BAD BREAK, AS THE BATPLANE CONTROLS SUDDENLY GO DEAD!
SHORT-CIRCUIT! APPARENTLY CAUSED BY THE BOMB-BAY MECHANISM! WE'LL HAVE TO SET DOWN FOR REPAIRS!
TOUGH LUCK—HE'S ESCAPING! BUT IN HIS HURRY HE LEFT WEAVER—AND WE CAN BRING HIM BACK WITH US!

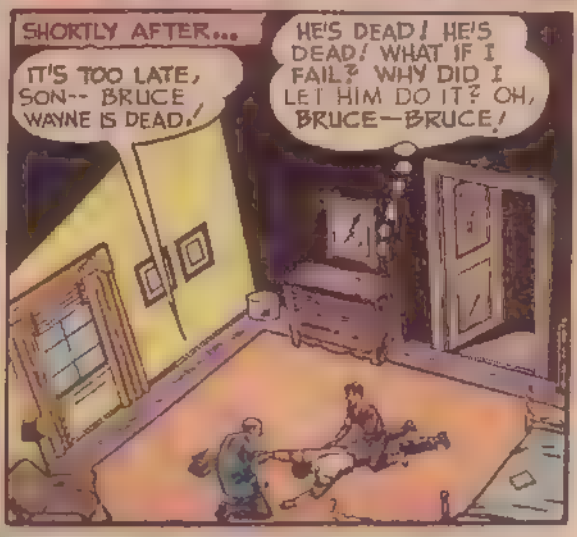

AND AS DAYS PASS, BATMAN AND ROBIN GRIMLY MATCH WITS WITH THE KILLER!
AH, BATMAN AND ROBIN! AND IN A DITHER, NEVER FEAR, GENTLEMEN—I SHAN'T BE POISONED! I EAT AND DRINK ONLY WHAT I MYSELF PREPARE! I'M VERY CAREFUL!
THE NEW EYE-GLASSES YOU ORDERED! WHERE ARE THEY?

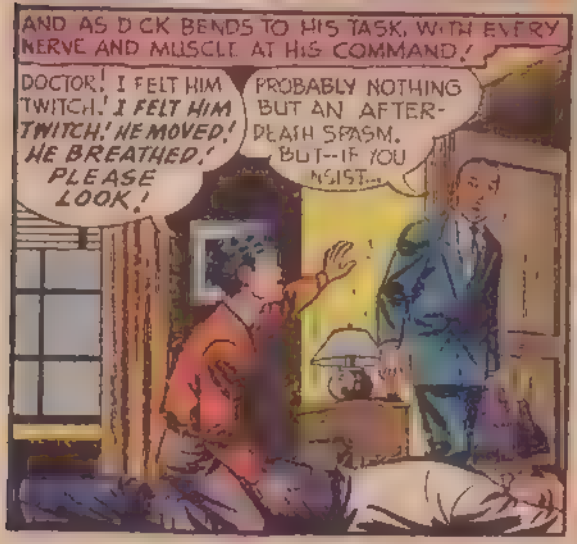

POISON, ALL RIGHT! ENOUGH HERE TO DO AWAY W TH YOU IN A MATTER OF MINUTES!
YOU WERE CAREFUL ABOUT WHAT YOU ATE OR DRANK- BUT YOU FORGOT YOUR HABIT OF ALWAYS CHEWING ON YOUR GLASSES!
ANOTHER DAY, AT THE WATERFRONT...
DON'T TOUCH THAT HAND-RAIL, SAWYER! IT'S WIRED WITH 1000 VOLTS!
AND STILL ANOTHER DAY ON A LONELY HIGHWAY...
PULL OVER, DUFF--AND OPEN YOUR WINDOWS! YOUR EXHAUST HAS BEEN DIVERTED - IT'S COMING INTO YOUR CAR!
HE ALWAYS DRIVES WITH ALL WINDOWS CLOSED--A PERFECT SET-UP FOR CARBON MONOXIDE GAS!
LATER, IN THE BAT-CAVE...
HABITS! HABITS! THE KILLER KNOWS ALL THEIR HABITS TO A T! AND HE'S CLEVER! VERY CLEVER!
THAT DOESN'T SOUND LIKE A DESCRIPTION OF LITTLE DOUGY! IT SOUNDS MORE LIKE ONE OF THE CLUB MEMBERS! BUT WHO?
I AM, DICK! THERE ARE TOO MANY LIVES AT STAKE! WE CAN'T GO ON SAVING THEM AT THE LAST SECOND FOREVER! I MUST JOIN THAT CLUB--WHATEVER THE RISK!
I DON'T KNOW! BUT I KNOW WHAT WE'VE DONE IN THE PAST IN SIMILAR CASES! BRUCE WAYNE MUST JOIN THE CLUB--AND BAIT THE KILLER!
BUT, TO JOIN THIS CLUB YOU HAVE TO DIE! BRUCE! YOU'RE NOT SERIOUS!

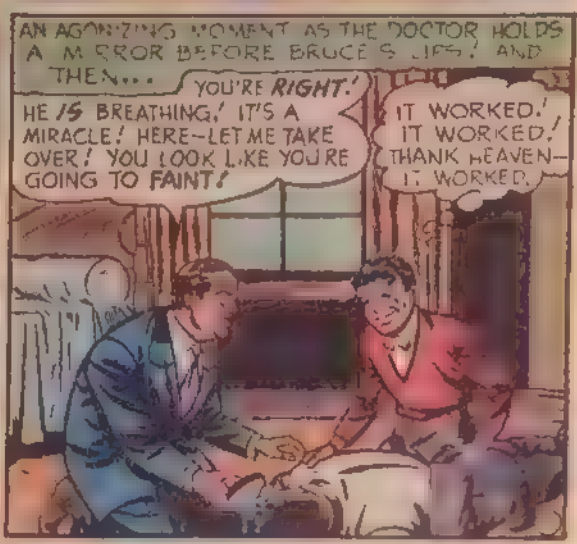

AND SO IT IS THAT THE MOST TERRYING UNDERTAKING IN THE HISTORY OF THE DARING DUO COMES TO PASS.
THE DOCTOR'S HERE -- HE'S TREATING ALFRED, OUR BUTLER...
GOOD! WE NEED HIM AS AN OFFICIAL WITNESS TO MY DEATH -- BUT HIS PRESENCE HERE MUST APPEAR CO INCIDENTAL.

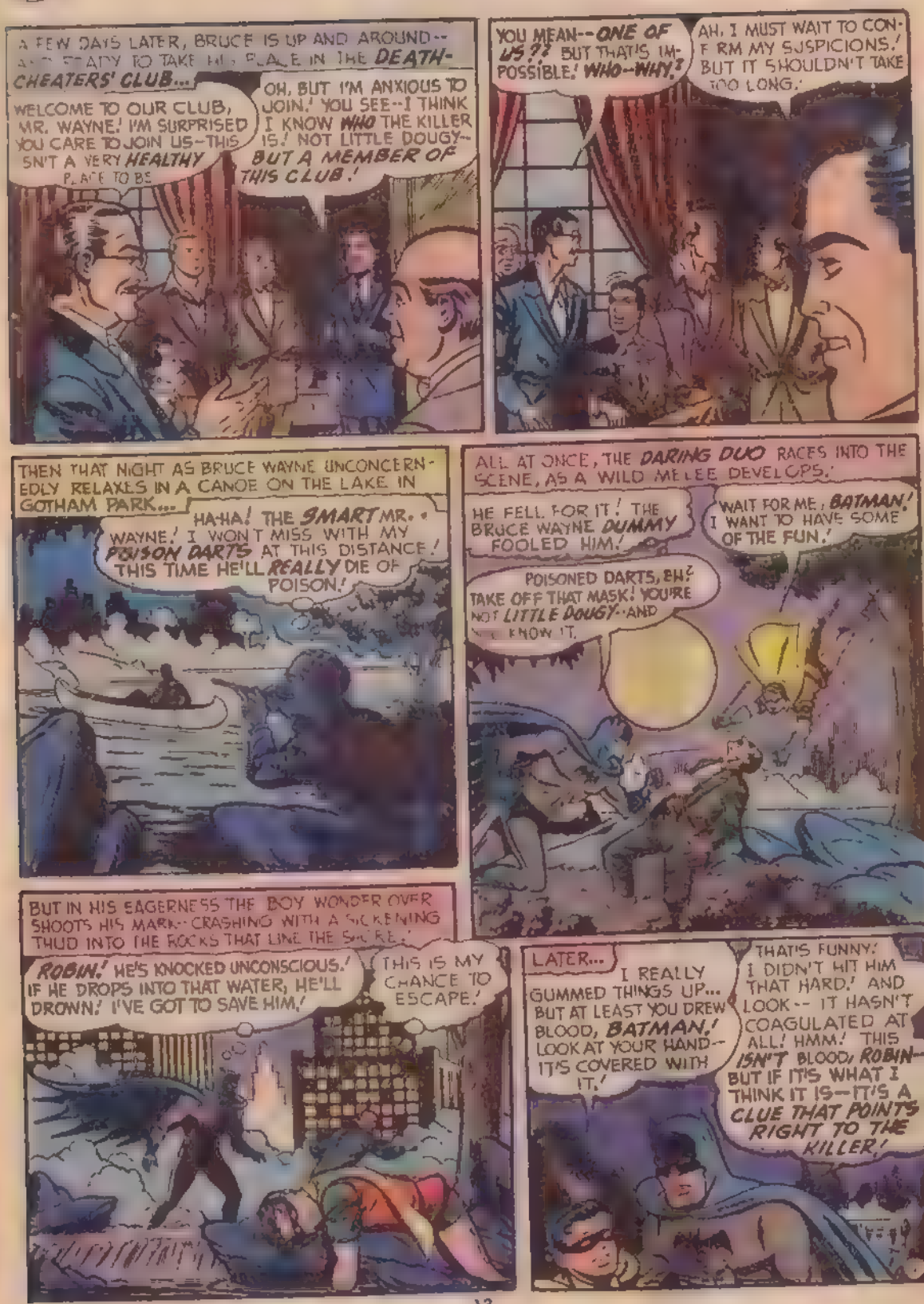

YOU SAY THE POISON'S SWIFT -- AND PAINLESS? AND THAT THERE ARE CASES RECORDED IN SOUTH AMERICA WHERE VICTIMS WERE REVIVED BY ARTIFICIAL RESPERATION?
YES; I'M BETTING HEAVILY ON MY STRONG CONSTITUTION. YOU'LL TELL THE PRESS I "ACCIDENTALLY" SWALLOWED THE POISON.


AND A MOMENT LATER, THE FEARFUL ACT IS DONE.
DOCTOR! COME QUICKLY! DOCTOR!
OH, BRUCE! BRUCE!


SHORTLY AFTER...
IT'S TOO LATE, SON -- BRUCE WAYNE IS DEAD.
HE'S DEAD! HE'S DEAD! WHAT IF I FAIL? WHY DID I LET HIM DO IT? OH, BRUCE -- BRUCE!


AND AS DICK BENDS TO HIS TASK, WITH EVERY NERVE AND MUSCLE AT HIS COMMAND!
DOCTOR! I FELT HIM TWITCH! I FELT HIM TWITCH! HE MOVED! HE BREATHED! PLEASE LOOK!
PROBABLY NOTHING BUT AN AFTER-DEATH SPASM. BUT -- IF YOU INSIST...


AN AGONIZING MOMENT AS THE DOCTOR HOLDS A MIRROR BEFORE BRUCE'S LIPS! AND THEN...
YOU'RE RIGHT!
HE IS BREATHING! IT'S A MIRACLE! HERE -- LET ME TAKE OVER! YOU LOOK LIKE YOU'RE GOING TO FAINT!
IT WORKED! IT WORKED! THANK HEAVEN -- IT WORKED!


A FEW DAYS LATER, BRUCE IS UP AND AROUND--AND READY TO TAKE HIS PLACE IN THE DEATH-CHEATERS' CLUB...
WELCOME TO OUR CLUB, MR. WAYNE! I'M SURPRISED YOU CARE TO JOIN US--THIS ISN'T A VERY HEALTHY PLACE TO BE
OH, BUT I'M ANXIOUS TO JOIN! YOU SEE--I THINK I KNOW WHO THE KILLER IS! NOT LITTLE DOUGY--BUT A MEMBER OF THIS CLUB!
YOU MEAN--ONE OF US?! BUT THAT'S IMPOSSIBLE! WHO--WHY?
AH, I MUST WAIT TO CONFIRM MY SUSPICIONS! BUT IT SHOULDN'T TAKE TOO LONG!
THEN THAT NIGHT AS BRUCE WAYNE UNCONCERNEDLY RELAXES IN A CANOE ON THE LAKE IN GOTHAM PARK...
HA-HA! THE SMART MR. WAYNE! I WON'T MISS WITH MY POISON DARTS AT THIS DISTANCE! THIS TIME HE'LL REALLY DIE OF POISON!
ALL AT ONCE, THE DARING DUO RACES INTO THE SCENE, AS A WILD MELEE DEVELOPS!
HE FELL FOR IT! THE BRUCE WAYNE DUMMY FOOLED HIM!
WAIT FOR ME, BATMAN! I WANT TO HAVE SOME OF THE FUN!
POISONED DARTS, EH? TAKE OFF THAT MASK! YOU'RE NOT LITTLE DOUGY--AND I KNOW IT!
BUT IN HIS EAGERNESS THE BOY WONDER OVERSHOOTS HIS MARK--CRASHING WITH A SICKENING THUD INTO THE ROCKS THAT LINE THE SHORE!
ROBIN! HE'S KNOCKED UNCONSCIOUS! IF HE DROPS INTO THAT WATER, HE'LL DROWN! I'VE GOT TO SAVE HIM!
THIS IS MY CHANCE TO ESCAPE!
LATER...
I REALLY GUMMED THINGS UP... BUT AT LEAST YOU DREW BLOOD, BATMAN! LOOK AT YOUR HAND--IT'S COVERED WITH IT!
THAT'S FUNNY! I DIDN'T HIT HIM THAT HARD! AND LOOK--IT HASN'T COAGULATED AT ALL! HMM! THIS ISN'T BLOOD, ROBIN--BUT IF IT'S WHAT I THINK IT IS--IT'S A CLUE THAT POINTS RIGHT TO THE KILLER!

THE NEXT EVENING, AFTER *BATMAN* AND *ROBIN* HAVE FINISHED AN INTENSIVE INVESTIGATION...

WAYNE PHONED! HE SAID WE SHOULD WAIT HERE--*BATMAN'S* COMING OVER TO PUT THE FINGER ON THE KILLER.'

IT'S A RUSE, ME LADS.' THEY WANT ONE OF US TO MAKE A BREAK --AND GIVE HIMSELF AWAY.'

HACK DAKES
TOM
STANLEY
JIM
GREG

SHORTLY AFTERWARDS...

BATMAN--FOR HEAVEN'S SAKE! WHICH ONE IS IT?! LET'S GET T OVER WITH."

ALL RIGHT, *ROBIN*--WE'RE READY.

HAVE *YOU* SPOTTED THE KILLER? TEST YOUR WITS--BEFORE TURNING THE PAGE UPSIDE-DOWN FOR THE STORY'S CONCLUSION.'

LATER, AT POLICE HEADQUARTERS...

AN ACCOUNTANT WHO ENDED UP *IN THE RED*, COMMITTING SUICIDE, LEAVING A SCRAWLED NOTE: "*RED INK* AT OVER MY HAND. THAT'S WHAT SAVE HIM AWAY.

FEW PEOPLE USE *RED INK*--BUT ACCOUNTANTS *ALWAYS* DO! WHEN WE KNEW THAT WE WEREN'T TO SIEVER'S BOARDED-UP HOME AND FOUND HIS CELLAR HIDEOUT, NOW LET'S SEE HIM TRY TO CHEAT DEATH--IN THE ELECTRIC

"BUT I WAS TOO GREEDY. I SAW THAT I WOULD SOON BE DISCOVERED; SO I DECIDED ON MURDER--AND I'VE BEEN DOING SOME LITTLE CALCULATING! HAD PENED ALONG AT THE RIGHT TIME...

I'LL FRAME JOUGY, WITH HIS RECORD, HE'LL HIDE OUT IN PANIC; I'LL KILL THEM ALL, SO MY EM BEZZLEMENT NEVER COMES TO LIFE; AND I'LL "KILL" MYSELF--I CAN CONTROL MY EPILEPSY--AND ASSUME A NEW IDENTITY IN EUROPE WITH MY FORTUNE!

JEFF SIEVERS!

YES--JEFF SIEVERS--AND VERY MUCH ALIVE!, HE'S YOUR KILLER--WE HAVE HIS CONFESSION!

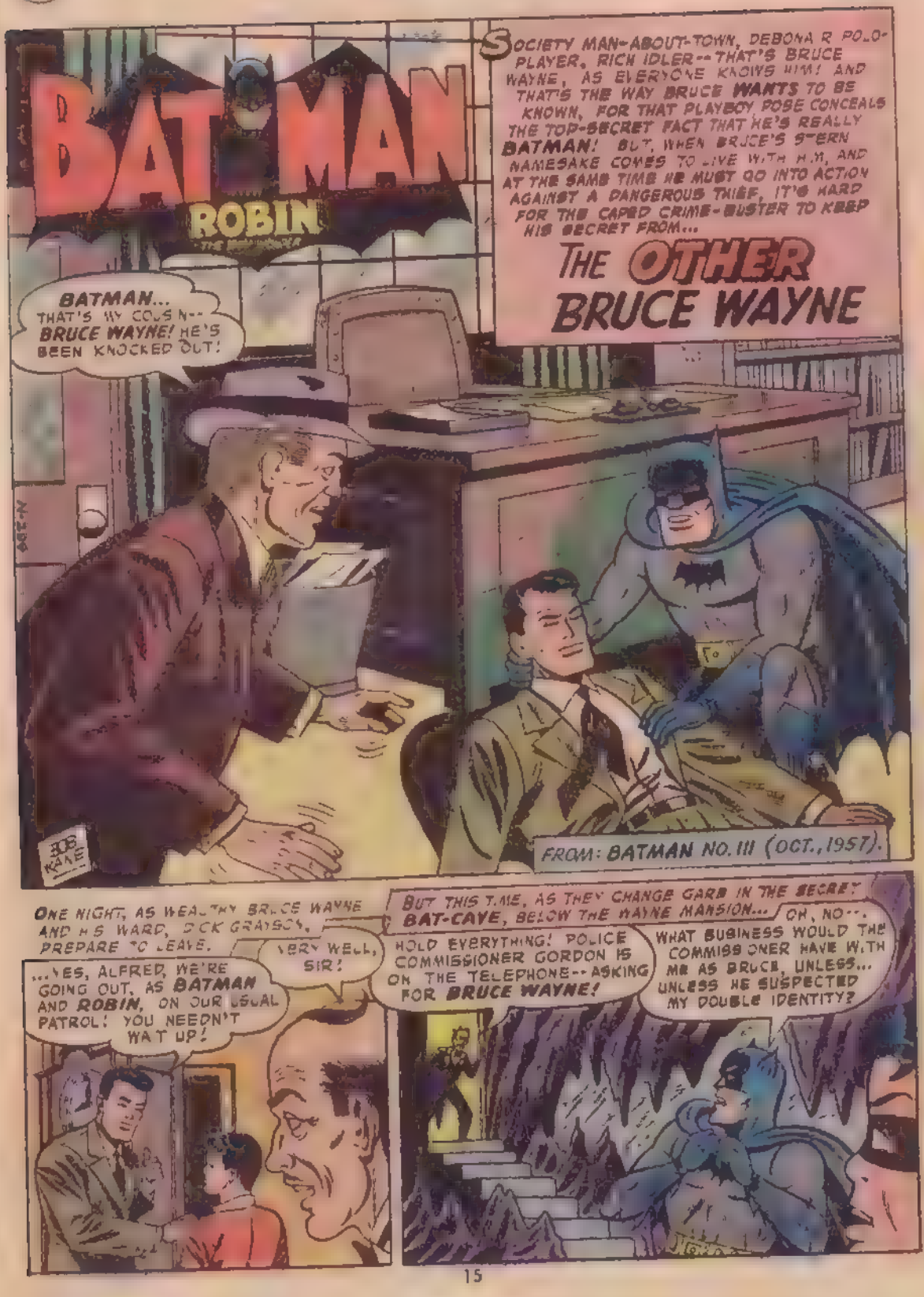
BUT HE WAS *KILLED!*

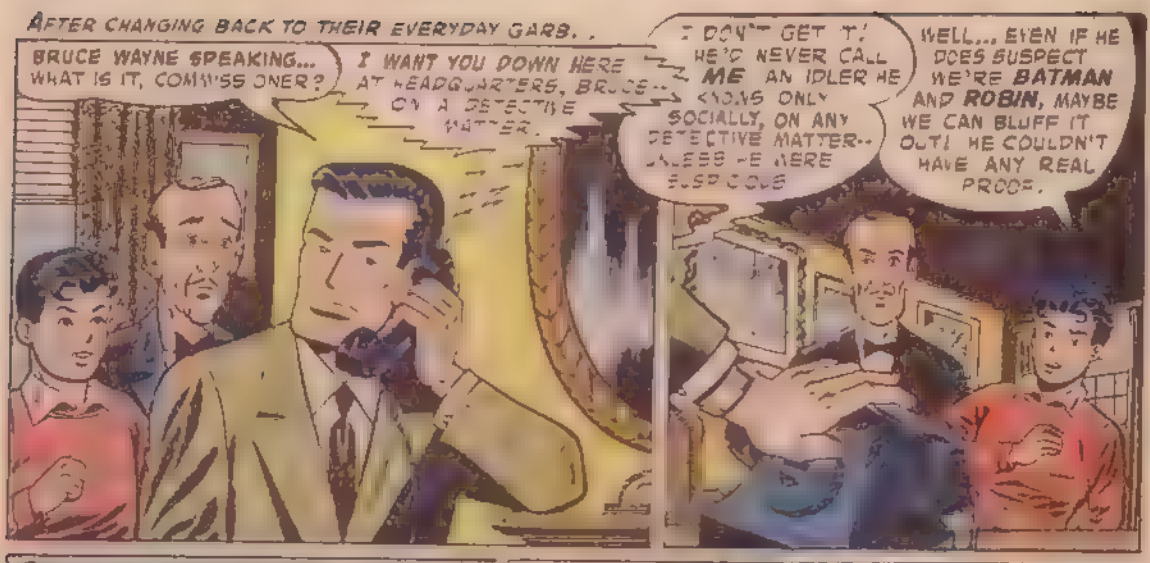
WHAT *IS* THIS?

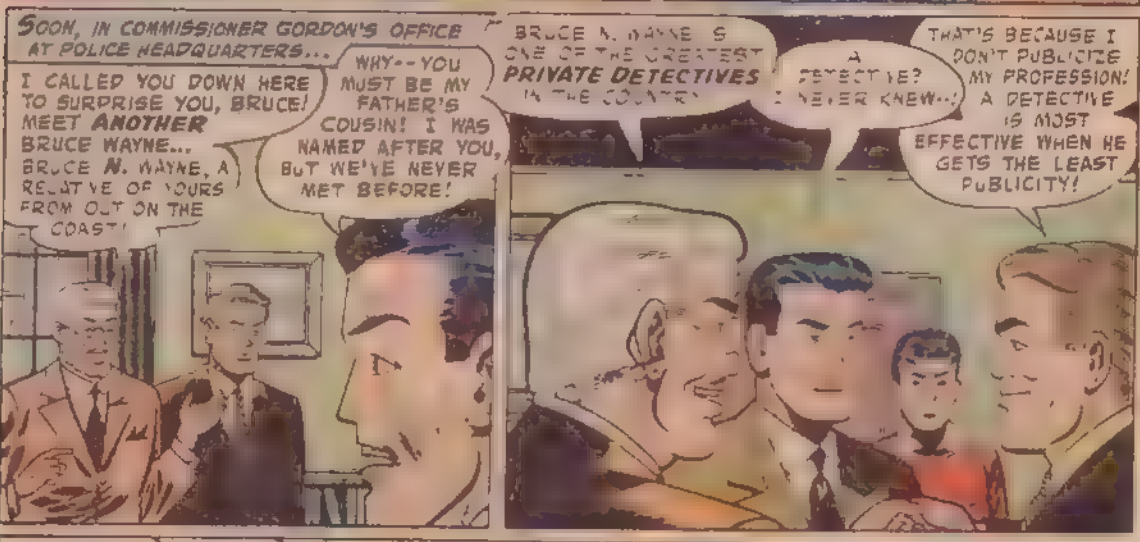
SIEVER'S CONFESSION: AS THE PERSONAL ACCOUNTANT OF ALL THE CLUB MEMBERS, I MANAGED TO EMBEZZLE THOUSANDS OF DOLLARS...

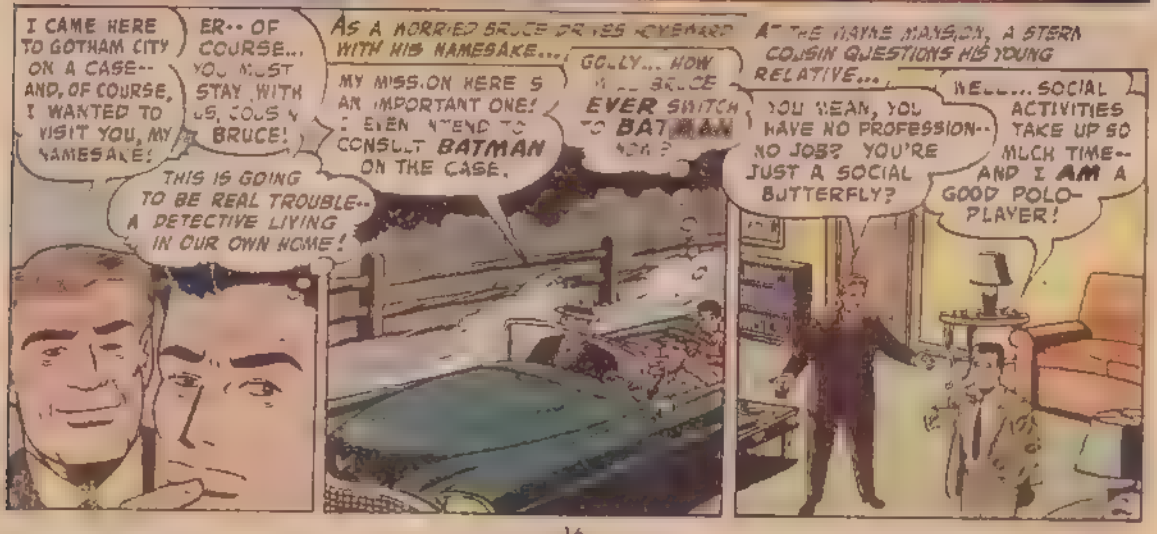
HA HA! SOON I'LL HAVE ENOUGH TO LIVE IN RARE LUXURY THE REST OF MY LIFE!

PAYING AND RECEIVING


BATMAN
ROBIN
SOCIETY MAN-ABOUT-TOWN, DEBONAIR POLO-PLAYER, RICH IDLER--THAT'S BRUCE WAYNE, AS EVERYONE KNOWS HIM! AND THAT'S THE WAY BRUCE WANTS TO BE KNOWN, FOR THAT PLAYBOY POSE CONCEALS THE TOP-SECRET FACT THAT HE'S REALLY BATMAN! BUT, WHEN BRUCE'S STERN NAMESAKE COMES TO LIVE WITH HIM, AND AT THE SAME TIME HE MUST GO INTO ACTION AGAINST A DANGEROUS THIEF, IT'S HARD FOR THE CAPED CRIME-BUSTER TO KEEP HIS SECRET FROM...
THE OTHER BRUCE WAYNE
BATMAN... THAT'S MY COUSIN-- BRUCE WAYNE! HE'S BEEN KNOCKED OUT!
BOB KANE
FROM: BATMAN NO. 111 (OCT., 1957).
ONE NIGHT, AS WEALTHY BRUCE WAYNE AND HIS WARD, DICK GRAYSON, PREPARE TO LEAVE.
...YES, ALFRED, WE'RE GOING OUT, AS BATMAN AND ROBIN, ON OUR USUAL PATROL! YOU NEEDN'T WAIT UP!
VERY WELL, SIR!
BUT THIS TIME, AS THEY CHANGE GARB IN THE SECRET BAT-CAVE, BELOW THE WAYNE MANSION...
HOLD EVERYTHING! POLICE COMMISSIONER GORDON IS ON THE TELEPHONE--ASKING FOR BRUCE WAYNE!
OH, NO...
WHAT BUSINESS WOULD THE COMMISSIONER HAVE WITH ME AS BRUCE, UNLESS... UNLESS HE SUSPECTED MY DOUBLE IDENTITY?


AFTER CHANGING BACK TO THEIR EVERYDAY GARB. .
BRUCE WAYNE SPEAKING... WHAT IS IT, COMMISS ONER?
I WANT YOU DOWN HERE AT HEADQUARTERS, BRUCE.. ON A DETECTIVE MATTER.
I DON'T GET IT! HE'D NEVER CALL ME AN IDLER HE KNOWS ONLY SOCIALLY, ON ANY DETECTIVE MATTER.. UNLESS HE HERE SUSPICIOUS
WELL... EVEN IF HE DOES SUSPECT WE'RE BATMAN AND ROBIN, MAYBE WE CAN BLUFF IT OUT! HE COULDN'T HAVE ANY REAL PROOF.


SOON, IN COMMISSIONER GORDON'S OFFICE AT POLICE HEADQUARTERS...
I CALLED YOU DOWN HERE TO SURPRISE YOU, BRUCE! MEET ANOTHER BRUCE WAYNE... BRUCE N. WAYNE, A RELATIVE OF YOURS FROM OUT ON THE COAST!
WHY-- YOU MUST BE MY FATHER'S COUSIN! I WAS NAMED AFTER YOU, BUT WE'VE NEVER MET BEFORE!
BRUCE N. WAYNE IS ONE OF THE GREATEST PRIVATE DETECTIVES IN THE COUNTRY
A DETECTIVE? I NEVER KNEW..!
THAT'S BECAUSE I DON'T PUBLICIZE MY PROFESSION! A DETECTIVE IS MOST EFFECTIVE WHEN HE GETS THE LEAST PUBLICITY!


I CAME HERE TO GOTHAM CITY ON A CASE-- AND, OF COURSE, I WANTED TO VISIT YOU, MY NAMESAKE!
ER-- OF COURSE... YOU MUST STAY WITH US, COUSIN BRUCE!
THIS IS GOING TO BE REAL TROUBLE-- A DETECTIVE LIVING IN OUR OWN HOME!
AS A WORRIED BRUCE DRIVES HOMEWARD WITH HIS NAMESAKE...
MY MISSION HERE IS AN IMPORTANT ONE! I EVEN INTEND TO CONSULT BATMAN ON THE CASE.
GOLLY... HOW I'LL BRUCE EVER SWITCH TO BATMAN NOW?
AT THE WAYNE MANSION, A STERN COUSIN QUESTIONS HIS YOUNG RELATIVE...
YOU MEAN, YOU HAVE NO PROFESSION-- NO JOB? YOU'RE JUST A SOCIAL BUTTERFLY?
WELL... SOCIAL ACTIVITIES TAKE UP SO MUCH TIME-- AND I AM A GOOD POLO-PLAYER!

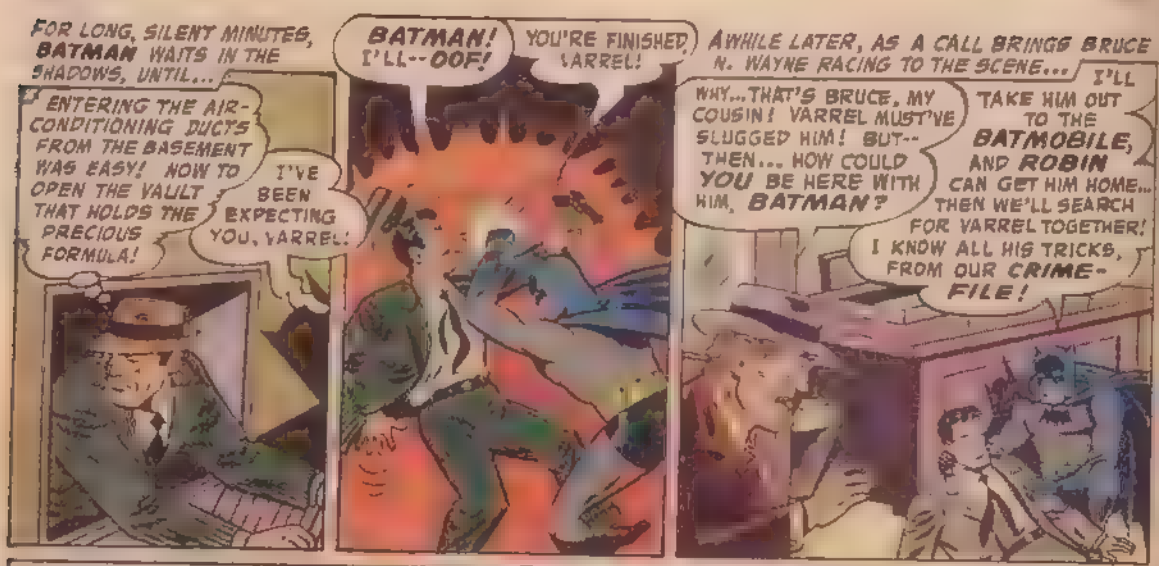
BRUCE, YOU'RE NAMED AFTER ME, AND I'M GOING TO MAKE A MAN OUT OF YOU! AND WHAT BETTER WAY TO DO IT THAN BY TEACHING YOU HOW TO BE A DETECTIVE, INSTEAD OF A USELESS PLAYBOY?
BUT, COUSIN BRUCE
I'LL START BY TAKING YOU WITH ME ON MY CASE HERE IN GOTHAM CITY! YOU'LL SOON FIND DETECTIVE WORK A BIGGER THRILL THAN POLO.
PSST.. YOU'D BETTER SWITCH TO ROBIN, DICK, AND FOLLOW US IN THE BATMOBILE TILL I CAN FIGURE A WAY OUT OF THIS.
SHORTLY, IN ANOTHER PART OF TOWN...
I'M TRAILING A SCIENTIFIC THIEF NAMED VARREL, WHO SPECIALIZES IN STEALING NEW INVENTIONS AND THE GOTHAM AERONAUTICAL COMPANY ANNOUNCED A NEW SUPER JET-MOTOR YESTERDAY!
SO THAT'S WHY YOU'RE GOING TO THE COMPANY'S PLANT HERE... TO SET A TRAP FOR THE THIEF!
BUT, WHEN THEY REACH THE BIG FACTORY...
ER--JUST AS YOU SAY, COUSIN!
WHAT A BREAK!... NOW I CAN SWITCH TO BATMAN!
THIS FENCE HAS BEEN CUT! VARREL MUST'VE ALREADY GOTTEN IN! YOU WAIT OUT HERE, BRUCE-- HE'S TOO DANGEROUS A FOE FOR A BEGINNER!
MINUTES LATER...
BATMAN, WHERE'S YOUR COUSIN?
IN THE JET-MOTOR FACTORY-- AND SO IS A DANGEROUS THIEF! WE'D BETTER HURRY... COUSIN BRUCE MAY BE RUNNING INTO TROUBLE!
INDEED, AT THIS VERY MOMENT, INSIDE...
GOOD THING I HEARD YOU COMING, WAYNE! THIS JET-MOTOR'S BLAST-PRESSURE WILL HOLD YOU OFF, WHILE I GET THE PLANS OF THE NEW MODEL FROM THE SAFE!
VARREL!
3

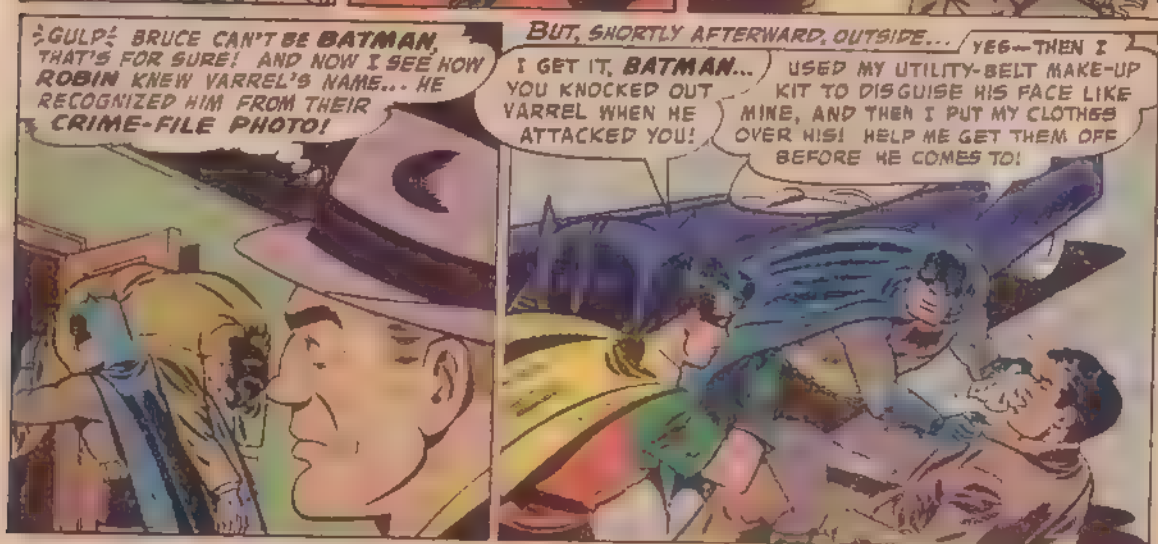
BUT, AS THE DYNAMIC DUO BURSTS IN...
BATMAN, TOO, MUST GET OUT OF HERE... BUT FIRST, I'LL START SOME OTHER MOTORS, TO DELAY HIM!
BATMAN!... WHAT A BREAK! BUT WATCH OUT FOR THOSE JET-BLASTS... THEY'RE SURE DEATH!
WE'VE GOT TO CUT THOSE MOTORS BEFORE THEY START A FIRE! THROW YOUR ROPE OVER THE HOOK OF THAT TRAVELLING-CRANE, ROBIN, AND THEN SWING HIGH!
THAT DID IT! WE'RE CLEARING THE JETS-- BUT VARREL IS GETTING AWAY!
AFTER TURNING OFF THE MOTORS...
GOOD THING WE... ER... SPOTTED THAT CUT FENCE, AND CAME IN TO INVESTIGATE!
YOUR ACTION PREVENTED A DISASTROUS ROBBERY! I'M PRIVATE DETECTIVE BRUCE N. WAYNE, BATMAN, AND I'M PROUD TO MEET YOU!
I'VE GOT A YOUNG COUSIN OUTSIDE WHOM I'D LIKE YOU TO MEET, TOO!
UH-- SOME OTHER TIME...
YES, WE'D BETTER HURRY! MAYBE WE CAN STILL CATCH VARREL!
SECONDS LATER, OUTSIDE...
I'LL DRIVE OFF BEFORE YOUR COUSIN GETS HERE, WHILE YOU CHANGE BACK TO BRUCE!
ROBIN MADE A BAD SLIP OF THE TONGUE IN THERE... I HOPE MY COUSIN DIDN'T CATCH IT!
WHAT WAS ROBIN'S MISTAKE? CAN YOU GUESS?

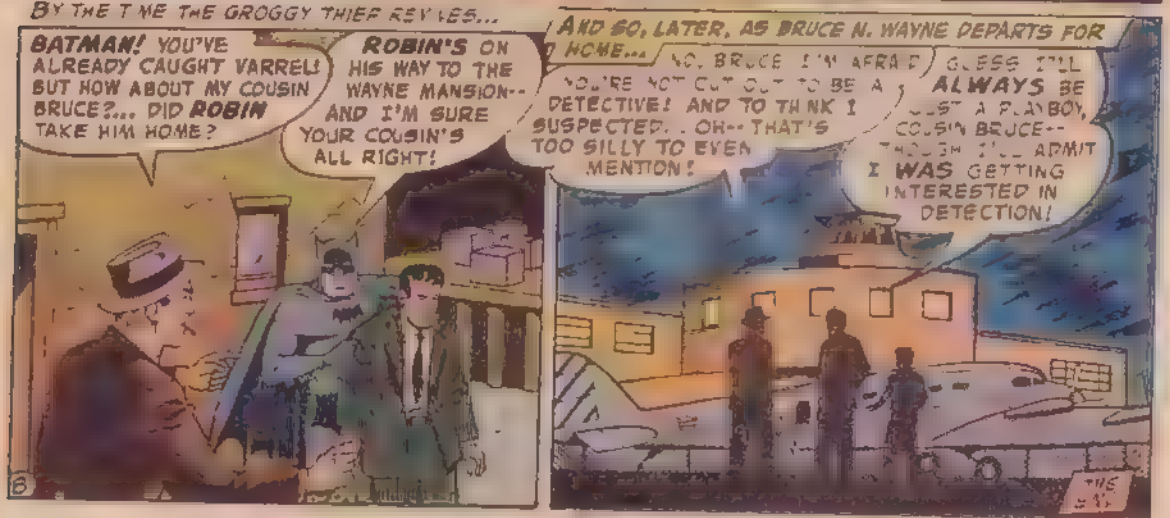
WHEN BRUCE N. WAYNE EMERGES...
NOBODY CAME OUT THIS WAY, COUSIN BRUCE, EXCEPT BATMAN AND ROBIN--AND THEY WERE IN A RUSH!
WHAT A TEAM! SOME DAY, COUSIN BRUCE, YOU'LL BE FACING SIMILAR DANGEROUS SITUATIONS-- AFTER I'VE GIVEN YOU THE PROPER BASIC TRAINING!
AND THAT "TRAINING" BEGINS EARLY THE FOLLOWING MORNING...
YOU'VE GOT A FINE PRIVATE GYM HERE... YOU SHOULD USE IT, INSTEAD OF GOING TO TEAS! NOW-- PRETEND I'M A CROOK AND YOU'RE GRABBING ME!
ALL RIGHT.
LOOK HERE, OLD CHAP, YOU'VE BROKEN THE LAW AND I HAVE TO APPREHEND YOU!
NO, NO! YOU'RE WIDE OPEN TO A JIU-JITSU ATTACK...
... LIKE THIS ONE! NOW, TRY AGAIN!
OOF! D-DO YOU REALLY THINK I'M CUT OUT FOR THIS SORT OF THING, COUSIN?
IT CERTAINLY DOESN'T APPEAR THAT WAY, AS THE LESSONS CONTINUE...
WHEN YOU JUMP A MAN FROM BEHIND, GRAB HIM WITH BOTH ARMS AND LEGS, OR HE'LL THROW YOU-- LIKE THIS!
HA, HA. BRUCE IS SURE MAKING HIMSELF LOOK BAD!
:PUFF: THIS IS WORSE :PUFF-PUFF: THAN PLAYING POLO!
HMPH! I'LL MAKE A LAWMAN OF YOU YET! REST AWHILE... I'VE GOT TO CALL COMMISSIONER GORDON NOW!
AND, WHEN COUSIN BRUCE CONTACTS THE COMMISSIONER...
SO BATMAN HELPED YOU LAST NIGHT, EH? GOOD THING YOU GOT IN TOUCH WITH HIM... I HADN'T HAD A CHANCE YET TO TELL HIM OF THIS YARREL CASE!
YOU DIDN'T?
BUT THE ONLY OTHER PERSONS I TOLD ABOUT YARREL WERE BRUCE AND HIS WARD!
5

ER--TELL YOU WHAT, COMMISSIONER... IF YOU CALL BATMAN TO YOUR OFFICE BY THE BAT-SIGNAL, I'D LIKE TO CONFER ABOUT THE CASE!
I WILL, RIGHT AWAY!
HMM... COME TO THINK OF IT, ROBIN MENTIONED VARREL'S NAME LAST NIGHT! HOW COULD HE, WHEN I'D TOLD NO ONE EXCEPT COMMISSIONER GORDON, BRUCE, AND DICK--UNLESS BRUCE AND DICK ARE SECRETLY BATMAN AND ROBIN!
MY IDLE PLAYBOY COUSIN... HOW COULD HE BE BATMAN? AND YET-- I COULDN'T THINK OF A BETTER DISGUISE MYSELF!
I'LL {PUFF} BE READY FOR ANOTHER LESSON SOON, COUSIN!
IT'LL HAVE TO WAIT, BRUCE! I'M GOING TO CONFER WITH BATMAN...THERE'S THE BAT-SIGNAL CALLING HIM NOW! COME ON... YOU CAN LEARN A LOT BY LISTENING TO BATMAN!
BUT... BUT...
COUSIN {PUFF} WAIT! I'M TOO EXHAUSTED {GASP} BY YOUR LESSONS! I'VE GOT TO REST!
HMM... I'M NOT SURPRISED!
AS HIS NAMESAKE DEPARTS, BRUCE SWIFTLY DONS HIS BATMAN GARB, AND...
SOON, AT A CONFERENCE IN COMMISSIONER GORDON'S OFFICE...
GOLLY... IT SOUNDS LIKE YOUR COUSIN SUSPECTS THAT YOU'RE BATMAN-- AND IT WAS MY SLIP THAT MADE HIM SUSPICIOUS!
HE'D NEVER HAVE NOTICED IT IF HE WEREN'T SUCH A SHARP DETECTIVE! I'M WORRIED... HE'D NEVER EXPOSE ME PURPOSELY, OF COURSE! BUT HE MIGHT DO SO BY ACCIDENT!
WE'VE GOT TO BAIT THIS THIEF TO CATCH HIM! YOUR COUSIN, BRUCE WAYNE, IS A TRUSTEE OF GOTHAM SCIENTIFIC FOUNDATION... HE COULD GET ITS OFFICIALS TO ANNOUNCE A VALUABLE NEW FORMULA!
AND VARREL WOULD SURELY TRY TO STEAL IT! IT SHOULD WORK, BATMAN!

I'LL MEET YOU AT THE FOUNDATION TONIGHT TO SET UP OUR WATCH! I HAVE TO GO NOW!
YES, BATMAN--I'M SURE YOU WANT TO HURRY ON HOME!
LATER THAT DAY...
THE FOUNDATION OFFICIALS MADE THAT FAKE ANNOUNCEMENT AT MY REQUEST, COUSIN... IT WAS IN ALL THE PAPERS!
GOOD... I'M GOING TO THE FOUNDATION NOW, TO MEET BATMAN! I DON'T SUPPOSE YOU WANT TO COME, TOO?
WHY, OF COURSE I WANT TO GO WITH YOU, COUSIN! I'M GETTING EAGER ABOUT DETECTIVE WORK!
HOW CAN HE BE THERE AS BRUCE AND BATMAN BOTH? HE MUST HAVE SOME PLAN... I'LL FOLLOW SECRETLY IN THE BATMOBILE
THAT NIGHT, IN THE SILENT EXHIBIT HALL OF A GREAT FOUNDATION...
BATMAN HASN'T ARRIVED YET--WE'LL WAIT FOR HIM HERE!
ER--MAYBE I'D BETTER HAVE A LOOK AROUND THE OFFICES...THAT'S WHERE WE KEEP THE VAULT THAT'S SUPPOSED TO CONTAIN THE FORMULA!
ALSO... UH... I WANT TO MAKE SURE THERE ARE NO WATCHMEN LEFT! AFTER ALL, WE DON'T WANT VARREL TO BE WARNED OFF BY ANYONE!
I THINK I UNDERSTAND... AND I'M SURE BATMAN WILL ARRIVE SOON AFTER YOU LEAVE!
JANSSEN'S FIRST MICROSCOPE
PRESENTLY, IN A DARKENED OFFICE...
VARREL'S RECORD SHOWS HE'S A CUNNING THIEF... I'M SURE HE'LL FIND A WAY INTO THIS OFFICE! EVERYTHING DEPENDS ON THAT AND ON MY MAKE-UP SKILL!
7


FOR LONG, SILENT MINUTES, BATMAN WAITS IN THE SHADOWS, UNTIL...
ENTERING THE AIR-CONDITIONING DUCTS FROM THE BASEMENT WAS EASY! NOW TO OPEN THE VAULT THAT HOLDS THE PRECIOUS FORMULA!
I'VE BEEN EXPECTING YOU, VARREL!
BATMAN! I'LL--OOF!
YOU'RE FINISHED, VARREL!
AWHILE LATER, AS A CALL BRINGS BRUCE N. WAYNE RACING TO THE SCENE...
WHY...THAT'S BRUCE, MY COUSIN! VARREL MUST'VE SLUGGED HIM! BUT--THEN... HOW COULD YOU BE HERE WITH HIM, BATMAN?
I'LL TAKE HIM OUT TO THE BATMOBILE, AND ROBIN CAN GET HIM HOME... THEN WE'LL SEARCH FOR VARREL TOGETHER!
I KNOW ALL HIS TRICKS, FROM OUR CRIME-FILE!


GULP! BRUCE CAN'T BE BATMAN, THAT'S FOR SURE! AND NOW I SEE HOW ROBIN KNEW VARREL'S NAME... HE RECOGNIZED HIM FROM THEIR CRIME-FILE PHOTO!
BUT, SHORTLY AFTERWARD, OUTSIDE...
I GET IT, BATMAN... YOU KNOCKED OUT VARREL WHEN HE ATTACKED YOU!
YEE--THEN I USED MY UTILITY-BELT MAKE-UP KIT TO DISGUISE HIS FACE LIKE MINE, AND THEN I PUT MY CLOTHES OVER HIS! HELP ME GET THEM OFF BEFORE HE COMES TO!


BY THE TIME THE GROGGY THIEF REVIVES...
BATMAN! YOU'VE ALREADY CAUGHT VARREL! BUT HOW ABOUT MY COUSIN BRUCE?... DID ROBIN TAKE HIM HOME?
ROBIN'S ON HIS WAY TO THE WAYNE MANSION--AND I'M SURE YOUR COUSIN'S ALL RIGHT!
AND SO, LATER, AS BRUCE N. WAYNE DEPARTS FOR HOME...
NO, BRUCE, I'M AFRAID YOU'RE NOT CUT OUT TO BE A DETECTIVE! AND TO THINK I SUSPECTED... OH--THAT'S TOO SILLY TO EVEN MENTION!
GUESS I'LL ALWAYS BE JUST A PLAYBOY, COUSIN BRUCE--THOUGH I'LL ADMIT I WAS GETTING INTERESTED IN DETECTION!
THE END

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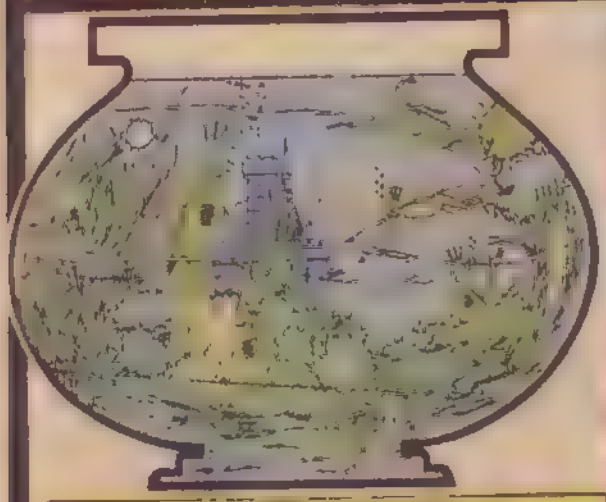

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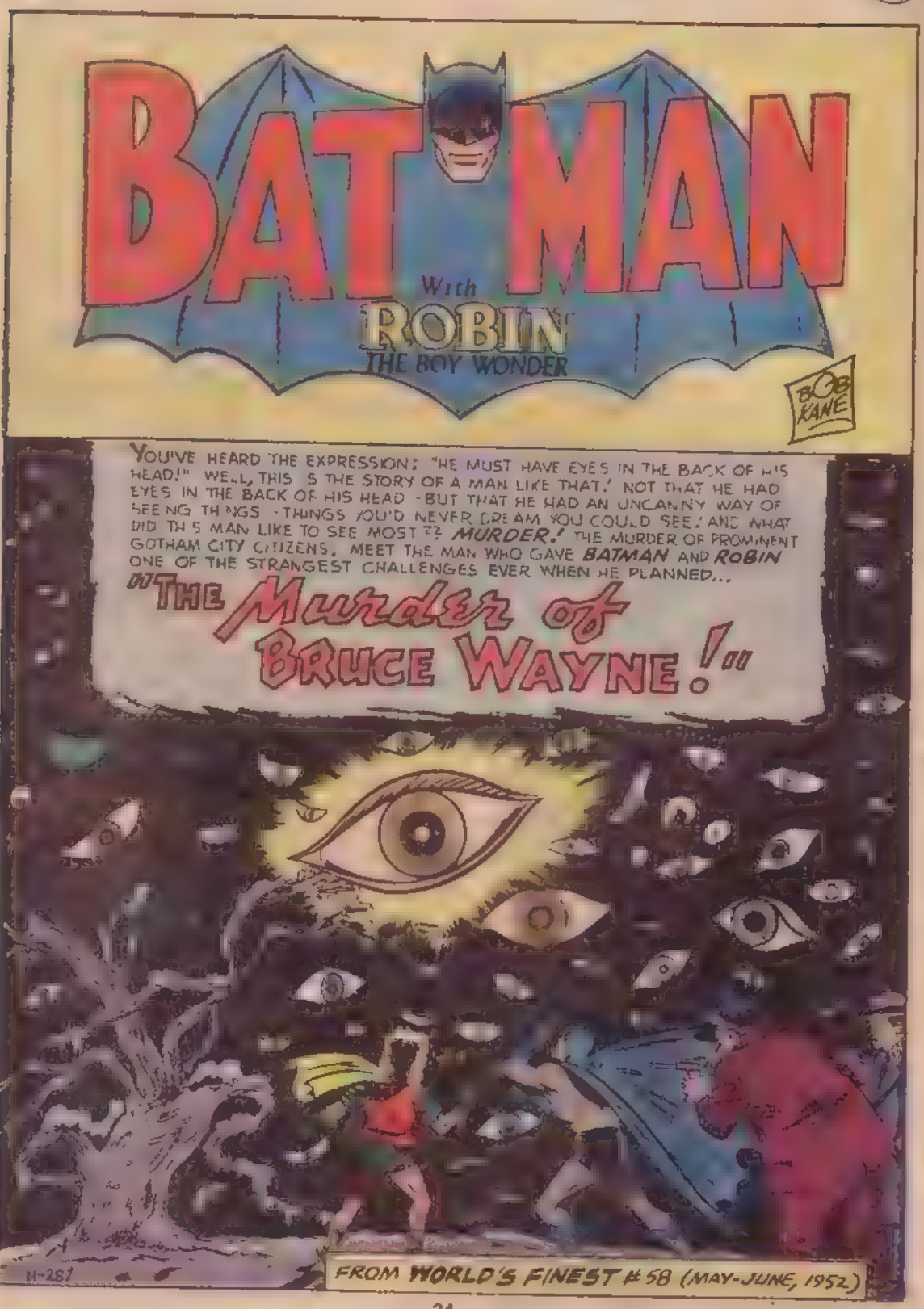

BATMAN
With
ROBIN
THE BOY WONDER
BOB KANE
YOU'VE HEARD THE EXPRESSION: "HE MUST HAVE EYES IN THE BACK OF HIS HEAD!" WELL, THIS IS THE STORY OF A MAN LIKE THAT. NOT THAT HE HAD EYES IN THE BACK OF HIS HEAD - BUT THAT HE HAD AN UNCANNY WAY OF SEEING THINGS - THINGS YOU'D NEVER DREAM YOU COULD SEE! AND WHAT DID THIS MAN LIKE TO SEE MOST?? MURDER! THE MURDER OF PROMINENT GOTHAM CITY CITIZENS. MEET THE MAN WHO GAVE BATMAN AND ROBIN ONE OF THE STRANGEST CHALLENGES EVER WHEN HE PLANNED...
"THE Murder of BRUCE WAYNE!"
N-281
FROM WORLD'S FINEST #58 (MAY-JUNE, 1952)

ONE MORNING, A VERY FORMAL AND UNEXCITING ADVERTISEMENT APPEARS IN A GOTHAM CITY NEWSPAPER...
SPECIAL MEETING TOMORROW
BOARD OF TRUSTEES
INTERNATIONAL CHEMICAL COMPANY
BOARD ROOM--HOME OFFICE
TRUSTEES:
MR. HOLMES CAFFREY, CHAIRMAN
MR. BRUCE WAYNE
MR. DONALD PENN
MR. ROGER J. KEEP
MR. JOHN KEITH-DUDLEY
YES -- AN UNEXCITING, DRY-AS-DUST AD. HOW COULD THIS BE THE FORERUNNER OF A FANTASTIC ADVENTURE? HOW?? WELL-- LET'S JUST SEE!
THERE'S DONALD PENN NOW. HE'S DRIVING ME TO THE TRUSTEES' MEETING. SEE YOU LATER, DICK...
SO NOW I'M THE WARD OF A FAMOUS TRUSTEE! SO LONG, BRUCE--HAVE A GOOD TIME!
HONK-K
SOON AFTER...
I'M AFRAID WE'RE IN FOR SOME MORE UNPLEASANTNESS AT THE MEETING, BRUCE-- ROGER KEEP, YOU KNOW. HE'S GETTING WORSE AND WORSE!
YES--THE POOR CHAP SHOULD GO AWAY FOR A GOOD REST. HE'S DEVELOPED A VERY NASTY PERSECUTION COMPLEX...
AND LATER, AT THE MEETING, DONALD PENN'S WORST FEARS ARE REALIZED...
SO! YOU'VE VOTED ME DOWN AGAIN! IT'S A CONSPIRACY, I TELL YOU! YOU'RE TRYING TO FREEZE ME OUT! CHAIRMAN CAFFREY, I PROTEST!
NONSENSE, KEEP! COME ALONG NOW--THERE'S SOME NEW EQUIPMENT TO INSPECT!
I'M NO FOOL! I KNOW YOU'RE TRYING TO DEFRAUD THE STOCKHOLDERS! WELL--YOU'LL HAVE TO DO IT OVER MY DEAD BODY!
OH, COME ON, KEEP! NOT THAT OLD LINE AGAIN!
ALL AT ONCE...
BOOM!
HOW CLUMSY-- I'VE SLIPPED!
THAT BEAKER! KEEP-- LOOK OUT! GOOD GRIEF-- TOO LATE!
CRASH!

MILITARY MEN! Your credit is good . . . with NATIONAL Diamond Sales

ANY ITEM ON THIS PAGE ONLY $20 MONTHLY!

No Age Limit • No Red Tape • Lifetime Trade-in Guarantee

Illustrations enlarged to show detail.

CHERRY BLOSSOM
$200 three rings
15 fabulous diamonds set in lavish 14K gold
... more ... same as at $20 and ... payment of $...

THE [illegible]
$180 both rings
Fantastic fiery diamond in a "modern as tomorrow" setting of 14K gold
9 monthly payments of $20 and 1 payment of $5

THE DUKE
$150
Dazzling diamond man's ring in handsome 14K gold
7 monthly payments of $20 and 1 payment of $15

THE CAPRI
$27[illegible] both rings
A large fantastic diamond [illegible] 14K gold setting
16 monthly payments of $[illegible]

[illegible]
$275 both rings
3 large fiery diamonds set in a beautiful 14K solid gold modern design
14 monthly payments of $20.

NATIONAL DIAMOND SALES, 401 - 15th St., Oakland, Calif. 94612

Send Item _____ Ring Size _____ NC-5-71

I will pay ☐ $20 monthly

Name _____ Rank _____

Military Address _____

APO, FPO or City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Serial # _____ Discharge Date _____

Social Security # _____

Home Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Sweetheart or Wife's Name _____

Her Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

RING SIZE

Clip out—wrap finger—mark size at arrow point—mail with coupon

WORLD'S FINEST MILITARY RINGS!

The ultimate in craftsmanship! Designed in 10K gold for all [illegible]

[illegible] diamond - $189

9 monthly payments of $[illegible] and 1 payment of $14

With genuine Linde Blue Star - $229

9 monthly payments of $20 and 1 payment of $14

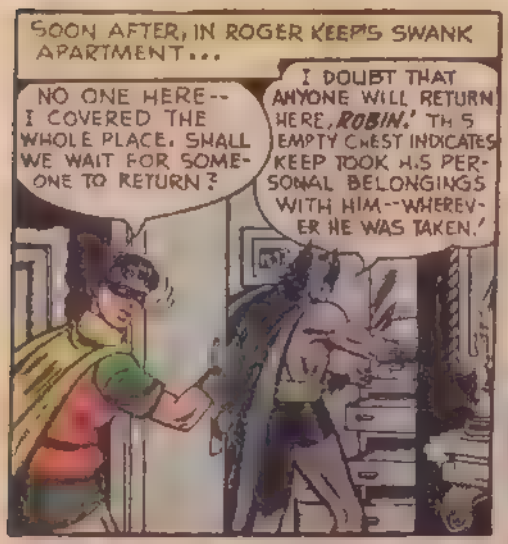
MAIL TODAY • SEND NO CASH

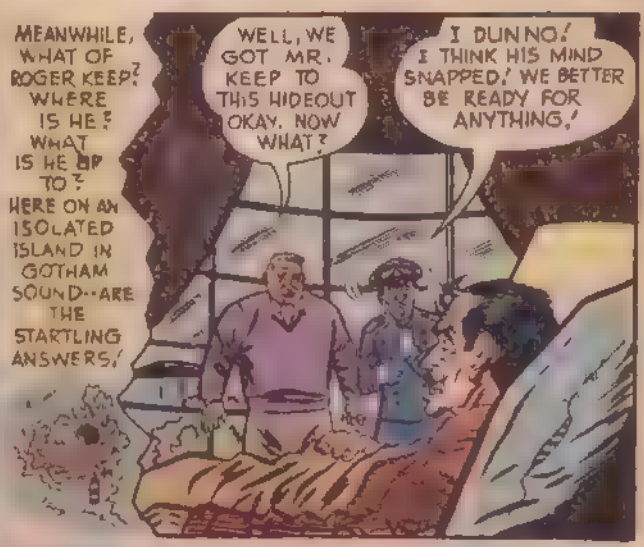
IF COUPON CLIPPED, SEND ORDER TO:
NATIONAL DIAMOND SALES
401 - 15th Street Oakland Calif. 94612

NO INTEREST • NO CARRYING CHARGE

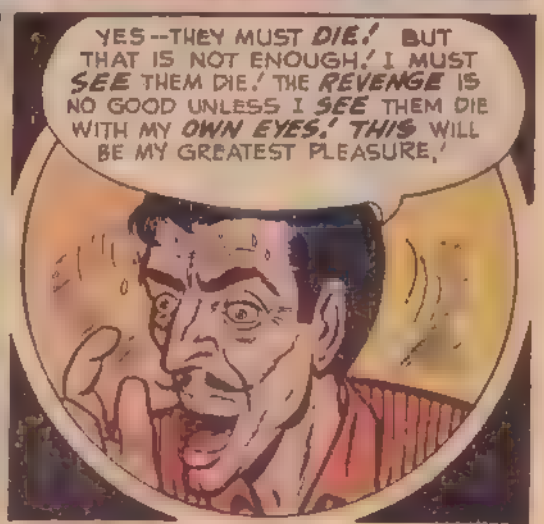
$5.00 charge on all purchases to cover postage, shipping, handling

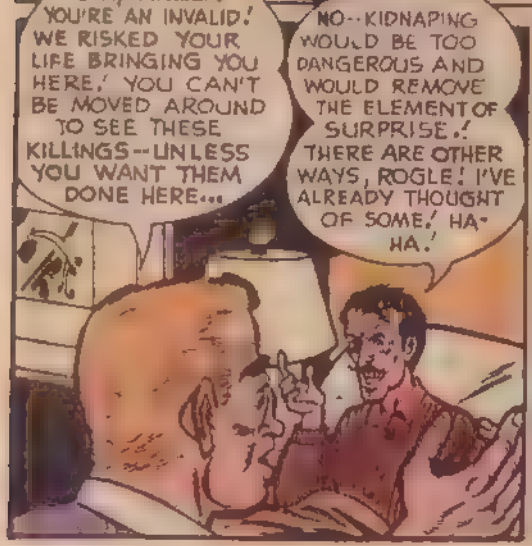
AN HOUR LATER, AT GOTHAM MEMORIAL HOSPITAL...
HE'LL LIVE—BUT HE'LL NEVER WALK AGAIN! EVEN A WHEEL-CHAIR IS OUT! HE'LL SPEND THE REST OF HIS LIFE IN BED.' HE'S ASLEEP NOW--BETTER LEAVE HIM ALONE...
ALL MY FAULT! HOW SHALL I EVER LIVE IT DOWN.'
PULL YOURSELF TOGETHER, CAFFREY,' IT WAS AN ACCIDENT--ANY OF US COULD HAVE BEEN RESPONSIBLE.'
THAT IS RIGHT.' WE MUST ALL BEAR THE RESPONSIBILITY--AND DO EVERYTHING WE CAN FOR POOR ROGER KEEP.'
AND THAT NIGHT, AS BRUCE PONDERS THE EVENTS OF THE DAY...
SNAP OUT OF IT, BRUCE.' THERE'S THE BAT-SIGNAL!' TIME FOR US TO CHANGE INTO BATMAN AND ROBIN!'
A SWIFT CHANGE OF COSTUME—A MAD DASH IN THE BAT-MOBILE AND BATMAN AND ROBIN REPORT FOR DUTY!
WHAT IS IT, COMMISSIONER?
A KIDNAPING, BATMAN.' A PATIENT HAS JUST BEEN KIDNAPED FROM GOTHAM MEMORIAL HOSPITAL! A MAN NAMED ROGER J. KEEP
GOTHAM CITY
MOMENTS LATER, AT THE HOSPITAL...
IT WAS ALL VERY PROPER. A PRIVATE AMBULANCE APPEARED WITH WRITTEN ORDERS FOR THE PATIENT TO BE TRANSFERRED TO THE BLAKE SANITORIUM...
IT WAS ONLY LATER, WHEN WE MADE A ROUTINE CHECK, THAT WE DISCOVERED THE ORDERS WERE FORGED AND BLAKE SANITORIUM KNEW NOTHING OF ROGER KEEP.'
THE MALE-NURSE WHO TOOK THE PATIENT OUT WAS A LARGE, BLOND MAN WITH A BIG, TWISTED NOSE...
HMM.' THAT'S AN ACCURATE DESCRIPTION OF KEEP'S NEW BODYGUARD, ROGLE.' THERE'S SOMETHING FUNNY AFOOT HERE--AND I DON'T THINK IT'S KIDNAPING!

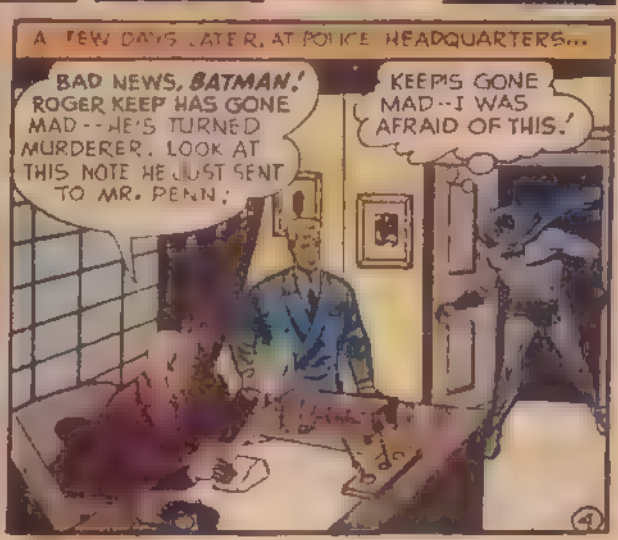

SOON AFTER, IN ROGER KEEP'S SWANK APARTMENT...
NO ONE HERE--I COVERED THE WHOLE PLACE. SHALL WE WAIT FOR SOMEONE TO RETURN?
I DOUBT THAT ANYONE WILL RETURN HERE, ROBIN.' THIS EMPTY CHEST INDICATES KEEP TOOK HIS PERSONAL BELONGINGS WITH HIM--WHEREVER HE WAS TAKEN.'

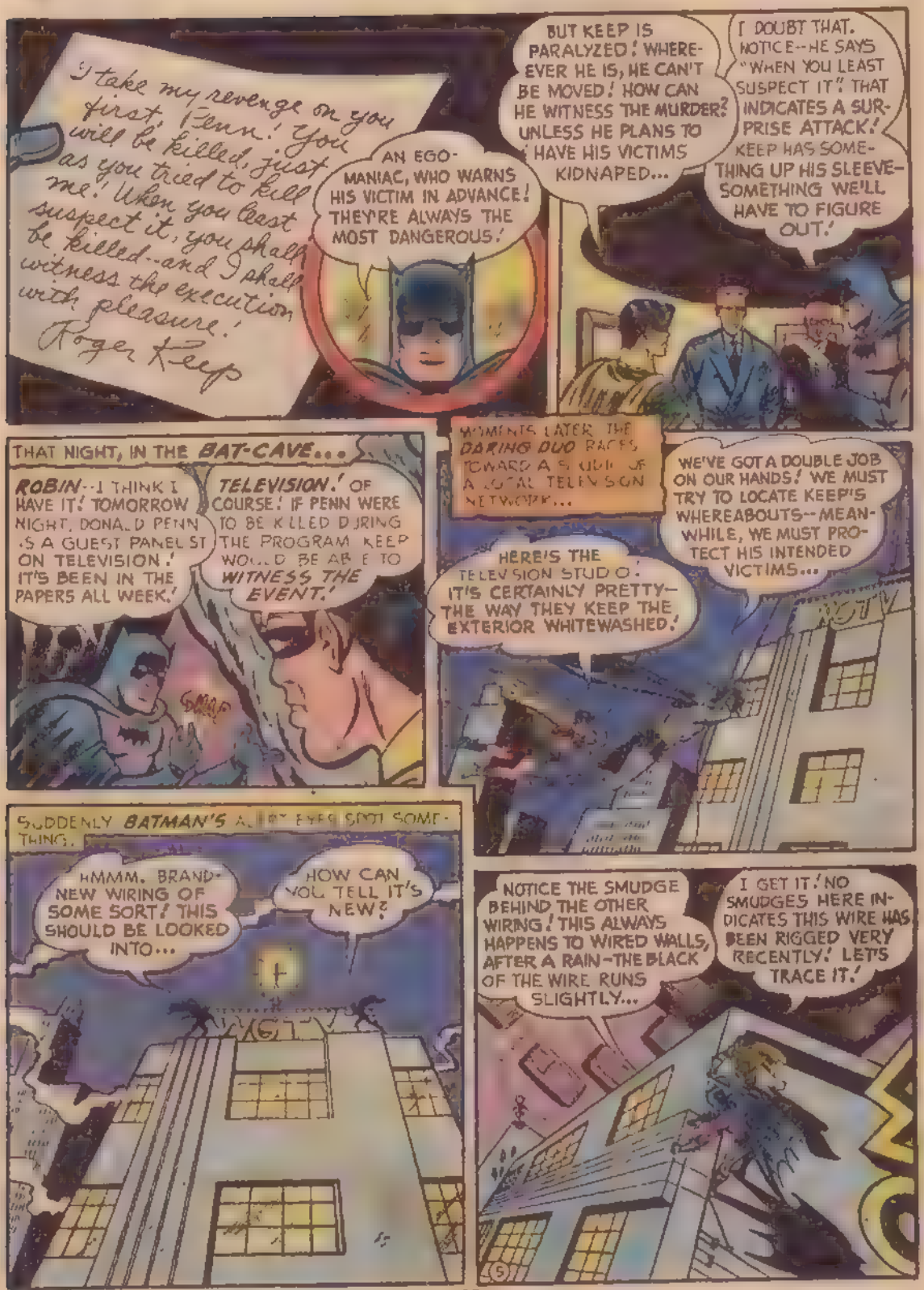

MEANWHILE, WHAT OF ROGER KEEP? WHERE IS HE? WHAT IS HE UP TO? HERE ON AN ISOLATED ISLAND IN GOTHAM SOUND--ARE THE STARTLING ANSWERS!
WELL, WE GOT MR. KEEP TO THIS HIDEOUT OKAY. NOW WHAT?
I DUNNO! I THINK HIS MIND SNAPPED! WE BETTER BE READY FOR ANYTHING!

STAGG, ROGLE--COME HERE! YOU MUST HELP ME GAIN MY REVENGE AGAINST THE FOUR WHO TRIED TO KILL ME! NOW IT IS THEY WHO SHALL DIE! HA-HA-HA!


YES--THEY MUST DIE! BUT THAT IS NOT ENOUGH! I MUST SEE THEM DIE! THE REVENGE IS NO GOOD UNLESS I SEE THEM DIE WITH MY OWN EYES! THIS WILL BE MY GREATEST PLEASURE!

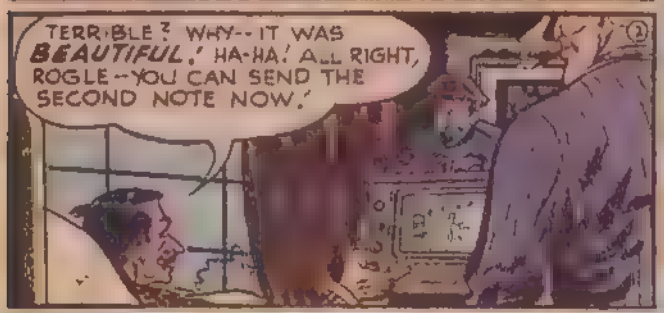

BUT, MR. KEEP! YOU'RE AN INVALID! WE RISKED YOUR LIFE BRINGING YOU HERE! YOU CAN'T BE MOVED AROUND TO SEE THESE KILLINGS--UNLESS YOU WANT THEM DONE HERE...
NO--KIDNAPING WOULD BE TOO DANGEROUS AND WOULD REMOVE THE ELEMENT OF SURPRISE! THERE ARE OTHER WAYS, ROGLE! I'VE ALREADY THOUGHT OF SOME! HA-HA!

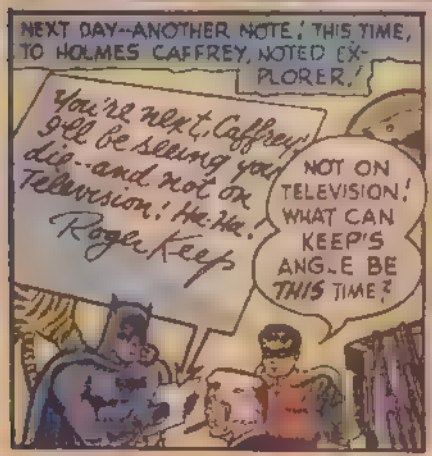

A FEW DAYS LATER, AT POLICE HEADQUARTERS...
BAD NEWS, BATMAN! ROGER KEEP HAS GONE MAD--HE'S TURNED MURDERER. LOOK AT THIS NOTE HE JUST SENT TO MR. PENN!
KEEP'S GONE MAD--I WAS AFRAID OF THIS!
4

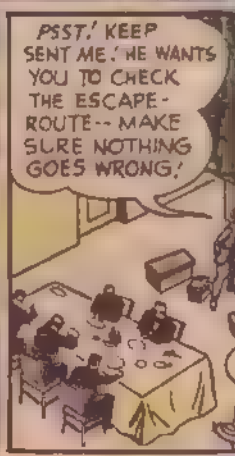

I take my revenge on you first, Penn! You will be killed, just as you tried to kill me! When you least suspect it, you shall be killed--and I shall witness the execution with pleasure!
Roger Keep
AN EGO-MANIAC, WHO WARNS HIS VICTIM IN ADVANCE! THEY'RE ALWAYS THE MOST DANGEROUS!
BUT KEEP IS PARALYZED! WHEREVER HE IS, HE CAN'T BE MOVED! HOW CAN HE WITNESS THE MURDER? UNLESS HE PLANS TO HAVE HIS VICTIMS KIDNAPED...
I DOUBT THAT. NOTICE--HE SAYS "WHEN YOU LEAST SUSPECT IT". THAT INDICATES A SURPRISE ATTACK! KEEP HAS SOMETHING UP HIS SLEEVE--SOMETHING WE'LL HAVE TO FIGURE OUT!
THAT NIGHT, IN THE BAT-CAVE...
ROBIN--I THINK I HAVE IT! TOMORROW NIGHT, DONALD PENN IS A GUEST PANELIST ON TELEVISION! IT'S BEEN IN THE PAPERS ALL WEEK!
TELEVISION! OF COURSE! IF PENN WERE TO BE KILLED DURING THE PROGRAM KEEP WOULD BE ABLE TO WITNESS THE EVENT!
MOMENTS LATER THE DARING DUO RACES TOWARD A STUDIO OF A LOCAL TELEVISION NETWORK...
WE'VE GOT A DOUBLE JOB ON OUR HANDS! WE MUST TRY TO LOCATE KEEP'S WHEREABOUTS--MEANWHILE, WE MUST PROTECT HIS INTENDED VICTIMS...
HERE'S THE TELEVISION STUDIO! IT'S CERTAINLY PRETTY--THE WAY THEY KEEP THE EXTERIOR WHITEWASHED!
SUDDENLY BATMAN'S ALERT EYES SPOT SOMETHING.
HMMM. BRAND-NEW WIRING OF SOME SORT! THIS SHOULD BE LOOKED INTO...
HOW CAN YOU TELL IT'S NEW?
NOTICE THE SMUDGE BEHIND THE OTHER WIRING! THIS ALWAYS HAPPENS TO WIRED WALLS, AFTER A RAIN--THE BLACK OF THE WIRE RUNS SLIGHTLY...
I GET IT! NO SMUDGES HERE INDICATES THIS WIRE HAS BEEN RIGGED VERY RECENTLY! LET'S TRACE IT!

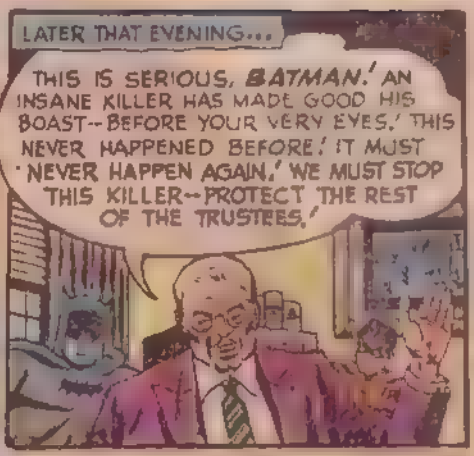
SHORTLY AFTERWARDS, INSIDE THE DARKENED STUDIO...
LOOK, ROBIN! THIS IS THE "GUEST'S" CHAIR—THE ONE PENN WILL USE. IT'S WIRED-UP SO THAT IT'S VIRTUALLY AN ELECTRIC CHAIR!
WOW! SO THAT'S THE SCHEME! LET'S TRACE THE WIRE TO ITS OTHER END NOW!
BAKER presents QUESTIONS and ANSWERS
MINUTES LATER...
HERE IT IS! WHEN THIS CIRCUIT IS CLOSED, ANYONE SITTING IN THAT CHAIR WOULD BE ELECTROCUTED!
I'M SURE GLAD WE FOUND IT! COME ON—LET'S RIP ALL THIS APART!
NO! WE CAN USE THIS AS A TRAP, TO NAB KEEP'S HIRED KILLERS! WE'LL JUST DISCONNECT THE CHAIR—THEN LIE IN WAIT WHERE WE CAN OBSERVE THIS ROOF!
THAT'S RIGHT! TOMORROW NIGHT, DURING THE PROGRAM, WE OUGHT TO HAVE SOME ACTION!
NEXT EVENING, AS THE BAKER SHAVING CREAM SHOW GOES ON THE AIR...
AHHH, THE MOMENT I HAVE BEEN WAITING FOR! THOUGH I BE PARALYZED, I SHALL WITNESS PENN'S DEATH VIA TELEVISION! HA-HA!
BAKER'S SHAVING CREAM
QUESTIONS & ANSWERS SHOW
MEANWHILE...
OUR COMPANY'S ARRIVED! COME ON, ROBIN—LET'S GRAB THEM!
THEN, AS THE NUREMI LAMMEN STUN THEIR ADVERSARIES WITH THE SWIFTNESS OF THE ATTACK...
YOU'VE CAUGHT US, BATMAN—BUT YOU'RE TOO LATE! WE ALREADY CLOSED THE CIRCUIT!
HELP! POLICE! A MAN'S BEEN ELECTROCUTED!
BUT IT CAN'T BE! WE'VE BEEN TRICKED!

THIS IS TERRIBLE, LADIES AND GENTLEMEN! YOU HAVE JUST WITNESSED A MURDER!


TERRIBLE? WHY--IT WAS BEAUTIFUL! HA-HA! ALL RIGHT, ROGLE--YOU CAN SEND THE SECOND NOTE NOW!
2

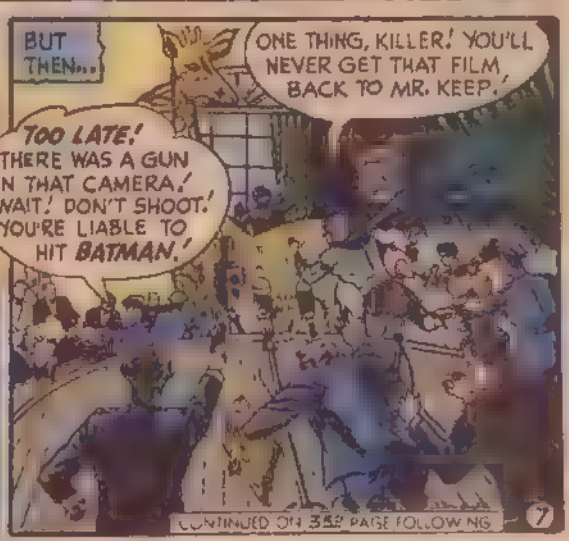

NEXT DAY--ANOTHER NOTE! THIS TIME, TO HOLMES CAFFREY, NOTED EXPLORER!
You're next, Caffrey! I'll be seeing you die--and not on Television! Ha-Ha! Roger Keep
NOT ON TELEVISION! WHAT CAN KEEP'S ANGLE BE THIS TIME?


PSST! KEEP SENT ME! HE WANTS YOU TO CHECK THE ESCAPE-ROUTE--MAKE SURE NOTHING GOES WRONG!
RIGHT!


LATER THAT EVENING...
THIS IS SERIOUS, BATMAN! AN INSANE KILLER HAS MADE GOOD HIS BOAST--BEFORE YOUR VERY EYES! THIS NEVER HAPPENED BEFORE! IT MUST NEVER HAPPEN AGAIN! WE MUST STOP THIS KILLER--PROTECT THE REST OF THE TRUSTEES!

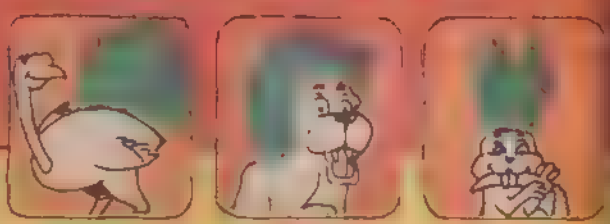
A FEW DAYS LATER, UNDER A HEAVY POLICE GUARD, HOLMES CAFFREY PREPARES TO ACCEPT THE ACCOLADE OF "EXPLORER OF THE YEAR"...

SUDDENLY, AS THE PRESENTATION BEGINS...
DUCK, CAFFREY--THIS MAY BE YOUR DEATH SCENE!


BUT THEN...
ONE THING, KILLER! YOU'LL NEVER GET THAT FILM BACK TO MR. KEEP!
TOO LATE! THERE WAS A GUN IN THAT CAMERA! WAIT! DON'T SHOOT! YOU'RE LIABLE TO HIT BATMAN!
CONTINUED ON 33rd PAGE FOLLOWING
7

WOW!

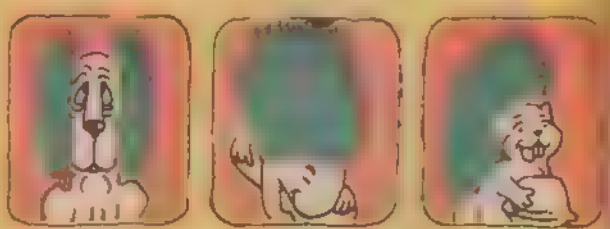
WATCH 'EM GROW!



the Ostrich grows his own full-feathered plume.

the Lion grows a long-flowing mane.

the Rabbit grows long, Perky ears.



the Hound Dog grows sad, droopy ears

the Porcupine grows needles of quills.

the Squirrel grows a big, bushy tail

Ever see a lion with green hair? An ostrich with green tail feathers? A porcupine with green quills? You will now — just 7 days after you start your own home-grown magic animal circus on its way to neighborhood fame. All you do is prop the animal cards against a full glass of water with their feeder tabs inside, as shown in the illustration. Keep them out of direct sunlight and soon the seed patches will sprout. In just two weeks they'll have luxuriant green hair, some even more than an inch high. And they'll grow and grow for weeks.

Only **$1.00** per set of 6

GUARANTEED TO GROW!

LUCKY CLOVER CLUB

NO		PRICE
	ANIMAL CIRCUS at **$1.00** each	
	ASTRO TOPS at **$1.00** each	
	3 PAIR ASTRO-TOPS at **$2.50**	
	10-IN-1 SCOPE at **50¢** each	
	Enclosed is FULL PAYMENT plus 25¢ for Handling and Mailing	

Name _____

Street _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Purchase of $1 or more automatically makes you a member of the Lucky Clover Club. You receive a genuine four-leaf clover for good luck, plus your own membership card and a copy of the big $1 Johnny and Jane Greenleaf Lucky Clover Club catalog of games, puzzles, gifts, toys and novelties.

TWIN WHISTLING ASTRO-TOPS!

They look like t[illegible] futuristic spac[illegible]

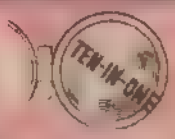
launcher and watch them perform! They come screaming do[illegible] like a pair of matched jets u[illegible] then [illegible] minute[illegible] or more, 60, 65, 70, 75 secon[illegible] steady, balanced flight[illegible] which one stays the longes[illegible] se the[illegible] fighters to knock the others out [illegible] competition. An[illegible] y yo[illegible] play them, you'll say ASTRO-TOPS are the

Buy them only throu[illegible] the Lucky Clover Club!

$1.00 THE PAIR WITH LAUNCHER

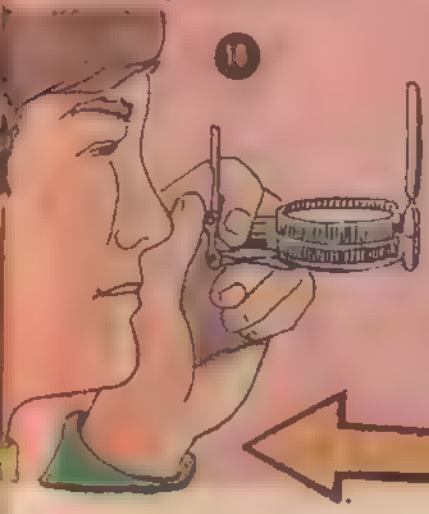
3 PAIR $2.90

10-IN-1 SCOPE!



A useful, educational scientific instrument, the 10-in-1 Scope gives you:

1. Two magnifying lenses (enlarge print 30 times)
2. Compound Microscope — 120X enlargement for studying specimens, locating wood splinters, examining coins, stamps, etc.
3. Adjustable telescope for studying the heavens, ships at sea, distant objects
4. Focusing binoculars — for following sporting events, theatre, etc.
5. Directional compass with complete scale 0° to 360°
6. Solar time clock — pencil or stick converts compass into sundial
7. Flat mirror — highly polished
8. Magnifying mirror.
9. Fire starter — two lenses concentrate sun's rays on tinder, allowing you to start campfire in seconds.
10. Code transmitter — use hand or card, and mirror to transmit Morse Code signals using same principle as heliograph.

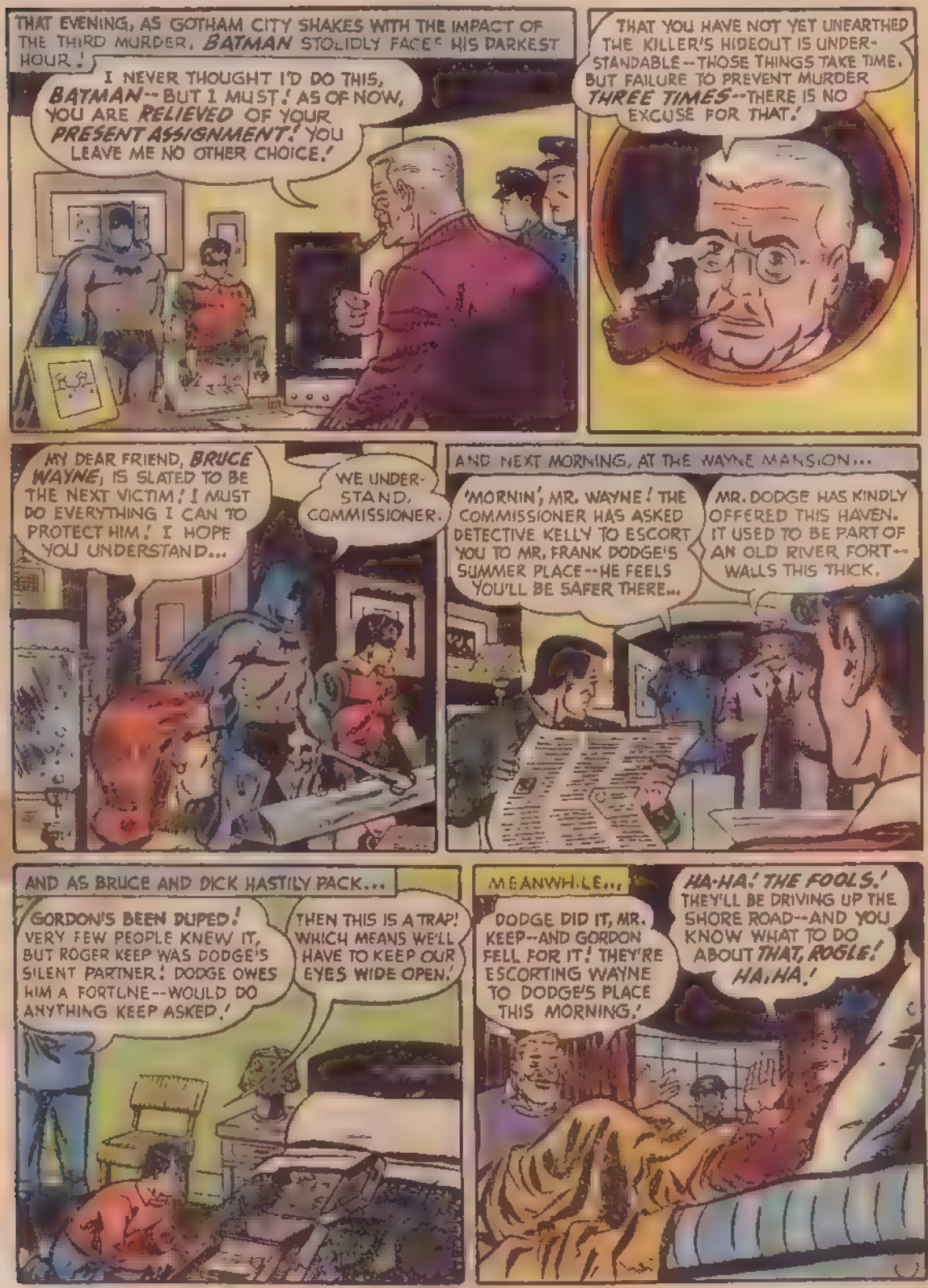


A useful, educational scientific instrument — not a toy. Folds to fit pocket or purse.

ONLY 50¢

ALL AT ONCE...
LOOK OUT, BATMAN! WATCH THOSE GIRAFFES!
HEY—THE KILLER GOT AWAY! HE TOPPLED THAT GIRAFFE EXHIBIT ON BATMAN!
LATER, AT KEEP'S ISLAND HIDEAWAY...
BEAUTIFUL MOVIES! HA-HA! RUN IT OVER AGAIN WHEN IT'S FINISHED, ROGLE—AND MAKE SURE THE CAMERAMAN GETS A
THAT EVENING...
Gotham Gazette
"EYE-WITNESS" KILLER STRIKES AGAIN!!
CLAIMS 2ND VICTIM UNDER NOSES OF BATMAN AND ROBIN!
COMMISSIONER GORDON HAULS FAMED LAWMEN ON CARPET! SUSPENS HINTED!
MEANWHILE... BATMAN--THINGS HAVE COME TO A SHOWDOWN! TWO MEN YOU WERE PROTECTING HAVE BEEN KILLED--AND THE KILLER IS STILL AT LARGE! THIS TIME YOU HAVE FAILED ME MISERABLY.
SUDDENLY, AN INTERRUPTION!
COMMISSIONER! A DEATH-NOTE ARRIVED AT MR. KEITH-DUDLEY'S HOUSE! HE'S NOT HOME--HE'S AT SOME AIR RACES OR SOMETHING!
OH, YES! HE'S AN AVIATION ENTHUSIAST--HE'S ENTERED HIS PLANE IN THE GOTHAM SKY SHOW! DON'T WORRY--HE'S UNDER HEAVY GUARD!
WAIT, BATMAN! I'M NOT FINISHED WITH YOU!
SORRY, COMMISSIONER--BUT I'VE JUST THOUGHT OF SOMETHING THAT CAN'T WAIT! I'M HEADED FOR THAT AIRPORT!

WHAT IS IT, BATMAN? DO YOU KNOW SOMETHING?
ONLY THAT ROGER KEEP PLANS TO SEE HIS VICTIMS DIE! HE'S USED TELEVISION AND MOVIES. THERE AREN'T MANY WAYS LEFT! BUT IF MURDER WERE TO TAKE PLACE IN THE SKY HE COULD SEE IT.
SHORTLY AFTERWARDS...
WHERE'S KEITH-DUDLEY? I MUST SPEAK TO HIM!
TOO LATE, BATMAN! HE DUCKED US A FEW MINUTES AGO--NEXT THING WE KNEW HE WAS TAKIN' OFF IN HIS PLANE! THERE HE GOES NOW!
MOMENTS LATER AT THE AIRPORT'S CONTROL TOWER...
IT'S NO USE BATMAN! EITHER HE WON'T ANSWER HIS RADIO CALLS OR HIS RADIO IS DEAD! I CAN'T PICK HIM UP.
COME ON, ROBIN-- WE'D BETTER GET THE BATPLANE INTO THE AIR.
BUT LATER, AS THE SLEEK BATPLANE ROARS THROUGH SKIES OVER GOTHAM CITY...
THERE'S THE MURDER-PLANE, BATMAN! IT'S DIVING ON KEITH-DUDLEY WITH ITS GUNS WIDE-OPEN!
AND IN THE NEXT MOMENT, A BLINDING FLASH, VISIBLE FOR MILES!
THAT DID IT! NOTHING FOR US TO DO NOW BUT FORCE THOSE KILLERS DOWN INTO A CRASH LANDING.
I GUESS KEEP IS FEELING PRETTY GOOD RIGHT NOW! WHEREVER HE IS, HE MUST HAVE SEEN THAT EXPLOSION! AND SO DID A MILLION OTHER PEOPLE IN GOTHAM CITY.
BO OM!
MR. KEEP! THE BATPLANE IS FORCING OUR PLANE DOWN!
WHO CARES?? I SAW WHAT I WANTED TO SEE--THAT WONDERFUL EXPLOSION! HA-HA! NOW ONLY ONE ENEMY REMAINS! BRUCE WAYNE!


THAT EVENING, AS GOTHAM CITY SHAKES WITH THE IMPACT OF THE THIRD MURDER, BATMAN STOLIDLY FACES HIS DARKEST HOUR!
I NEVER THOUGHT I'D DO THIS, BATMAN--BUT I MUST! AS OF NOW, YOU ARE RELIEVED OF YOUR PRESENT ASSIGNMENT! YOU LEAVE ME NO OTHER CHOICE!
THAT YOU HAVE NOT YET UNEARTHED THE KILLER'S HIDEOUT IS UNDERSTANDABLE--THOSE THINGS TAKE TIME. BUT FAILURE TO PREVENT MURDER THREE TIMES--THERE IS NO EXCUSE FOR THAT!
MY DEAR FRIEND, BRUCE WAYNE, IS SLATED TO BE THE NEXT VICTIM! I MUST DO EVERYTHING I CAN TO PROTECT HIM! I HOPE YOU UNDERSTAND...
WE UNDERSTAND, COMMISSIONER.
AND NEXT MORNING, AT THE WAYNE MANSION...
'MORNIN', MR. WAYNE! THE COMMISSIONER HAS ASKED DETECTIVE KELLY TO ESCORT YOU TO MR. FRANK DODGE'S SUMMER PLACE--HE FEELS YOU'LL BE SAFER THERE...
MR. DODGE HAS KINDLY OFFERED THIS HAVEN. IT USED TO BE PART OF AN OLD RIVER FORT--WALLS THIS THICK.
AND AS BRUCE AND DICK HASTILY PACK...
GORDON'S BEEN DUPED! VERY FEW PEOPLE KNEW IT, BUT ROGER KEEP WAS DODGE'S SILENT PARTNER! DODGE OWES HIM A FORTUNE--WOULD DO ANYTHING KEEP ASKED!
THEN THIS IS A TRAP! WHICH MEANS WE'LL HAVE TO KEEP OUR EYES WIDE OPEN!
MEANWHILE...
DODGE DID IT, MR. KEEP--AND GORDON FELL FOR IT! THEY'RE ESCORTING WAYNE TO DODGE'S PLACE THIS MORNING!
HA-HA! THE FOOLS! THEY'LL BE DRIVING UP THE SHORE ROAD--AND YOU KNOW WHAT TO DO ABOUT THAT, ROGLE! HA, HA!

AND LATER THAT MORNING, AS A CONVOY MOVES ALONG THE SHORE ROAD...
WAIT A MINUTE! STOP THE CAR! SOMETHING'S WRONG! IS THAT BATMAN I SEE IN THOSE WOODS?
BATMAN? WHAT'S HE DOING HERE?
THE CAR SCREECHES TO A STOP! AND BEFORE ANYONE CAN STOP THEM, BRUCE AND DICK RACE FOR THE WOODS...
MR. WAYNE--COME BACK! THIS MAY BE A TRAP!
(WHISPER) HURRY, DICK! AS SOON AS WE'RE CONCEALED BY THE FOLIAGE, WE'LL CHANGE TO BATMAN AND ROBIN!
MOMENTS LATER...
DON'T WORRY ABOUT WAYNE--SOMEONE IS TAKING HIM HOME! YOU WERE HEADED FOR AN AMBUSH! WE JUST SPOTTED IT!
THE WOODS ARE CLEAR--WE'VE SEEN TO THAT! BUT THAT ROAD IS MINED! IF YOU'D DRIVEN THIRTY MORE YARDS, WAYNE WOULD HAVE BEEN KILLED!
WHOEVER CUT THOSE SQUARES OF CONCRETE AND THEN REPLACED THEM WITH MINES UNDERNEATH, MADE ONE MISTAKE! HE FORGOT THAT CONCRETE HAS HORIZONTAL RIDGES IN IT, TO CUT DOWN SKIDDING. SEE HOW NOTICEABLE THIS IS.
GOSH! BUT SOME OF US DROVE OVER THESE MINES, AND NOTHING HAPPENED! HOW COME?
THESE ARE GERMAN TELLER MINES. THEY CAN BE ADJUSTED TO GO OFF ONLY WHEN A CERTAIN WEIGHT PRESSES DOWN. MOTORCYCLES WERE TOO LIGHT--BUT THE LIMOUSINE WOULD HAVE SET THE MINE OFF!
YEAH--JUST LIKE THE WAR. THOSE MINES WERE FIXED SO THAT A FOOT SOLDIER WOULDN'T SET THEM OFF--BUT A HEAVY VEHICLE WOULD!
AND LATER, WHEN THE POLICE HAVE DEPARTED...
BUT IF BRUCE WAYNE WAS TO BE KILLED HERE, HOW COULD KEEP WITNESS IT? THERE'S NO TELEVISION, NO MOVIES, NOTHING IN THE WOODS...
THAT'S JUST IT, ROBIN! IF KEEP IS WATCHING, THERE'S ONLY ONE WAY--WITH HIGH-POWERED GLASSES! WITH THE WOODS ON ONE SIDE, AND A CURVING ROAD--HE MUST BE OUT THERE--ON CRABSHELL ISLAND!

AND SOON AFTER, BATMAN'S SUSPICIONS ARE CONFIRMED!
BATMAN AND ROBIN! I OUTSMARTED YOU ALL ALONG--NOW YOU'VE RUINED EVERYTHING!
MORE THAN YOU KNOW, KEEP! WAIT TILL WE GET THESE PALS OF YOURS TO HEADQUARTERS. WE'LL LEAVE YOU HERE FOR THE TIME BEING...
LATER...
I GUESS I WAS A BIT HASTY, BATMAN YOU DID SAVE BRUCE WAYNE'S LIFE--AND FINALLY CATCH THE KILLER!
BY THE WAY, COMMISSIONER--I'VE BROUGHT SOME FRIENDS WHO WANT TO SEE YOU...
THEN, AS HIS DOOR OPENS, GORDON'S EYES NEARLY POP FROM HIS HEAD! THERE, ALIVE, STAND PENN, CAFFREY AND KEITH-DUDLEY!
ALL OF YOU, ALIVE?? BUT HOW??
IT WAS BATMAN'S IDEA! SINCE HE DIDN'T KNOW WHERE KEEP WAS, OR HOW LONG IT WOULD TAKE TO FIND HIM, BATMAN FOOLED KEEP INTO BELIEVING THE MURDERS WERE SUCCESSFUL--
IF I'D PREVENTED MURDER, KEEP WOULD TRY AGAIN--AND AGAIN! THIS WAY WAS EASIER--HE THOUGHT HE HAD SUCCEEDED EACH TIME, AND WENT ON TO THE NEXT MAN!
AND IT WAS FUN! I FEIGNED BEING ELECTROCUTED--HAD A CLOSE FRIEND YELL BLOODY MURDER! EVERYBODY FELL FOR IT--AND I JUST WENT INTO HIDING!
WITH ME, BATMAN GUESSED THE MOVIES TRICK AHEAD OF TIME! HE TOLD ME TO PLAY DEAD, SPOTTED THE CAMERA-GUN, DISGUISED HIMSELF AS A STOOGE OF KEEP AND MANAGED TO GET THE GUN AND SUBSTITUTE BLANKS.
WHEN MY PLANE BLEW UP, A DUMMY WAS AT THE STICK! I OPERATED THE PLANE BY REMOTE CONTROL! BATMAN HAD WORKED THE WHOLE IDEA OUT THE DAY BEFORE!
BUT THE WAY YOU ACTED, NEVER LETTING ME ON TO YOUR PLAN, OR ANYTHING. WHY THAT?
WE COULDN'T TAKE A SINGLE CHANCE! THE WHOLE TRICK DEPENDED ON COMPLETE SECRECY--AND THERE WERE ENOUGH IN ON IT AS IT WAS! I NEVER KNEW WHERE A DICTAPHONE OR A WIRE-TAP OR A STOOGE MIGHT BE PLANTED! SO I PLAYED IT STRAIGHT!

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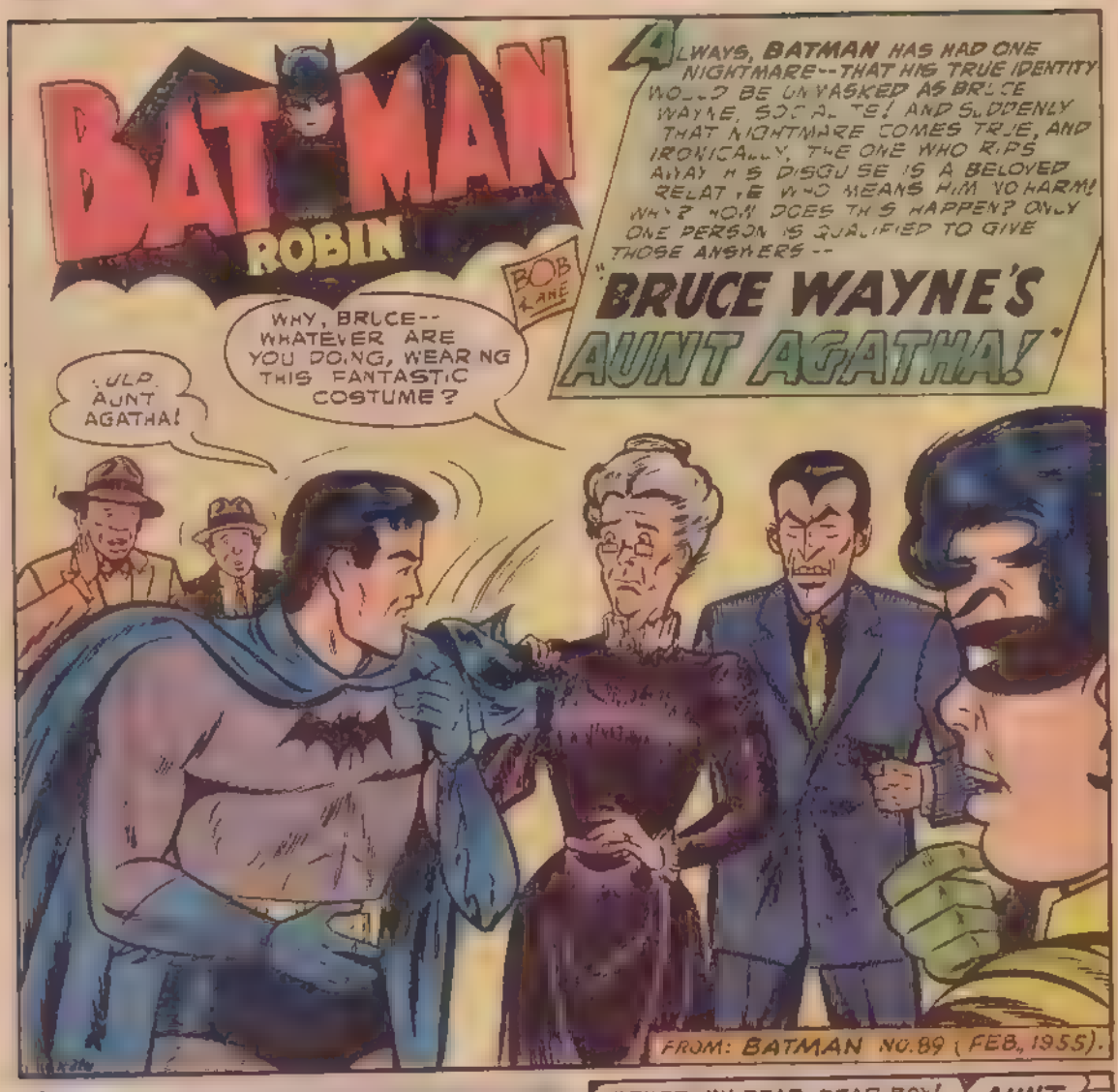
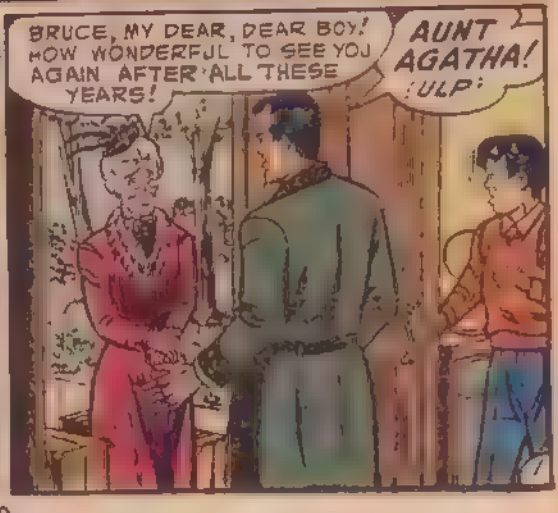
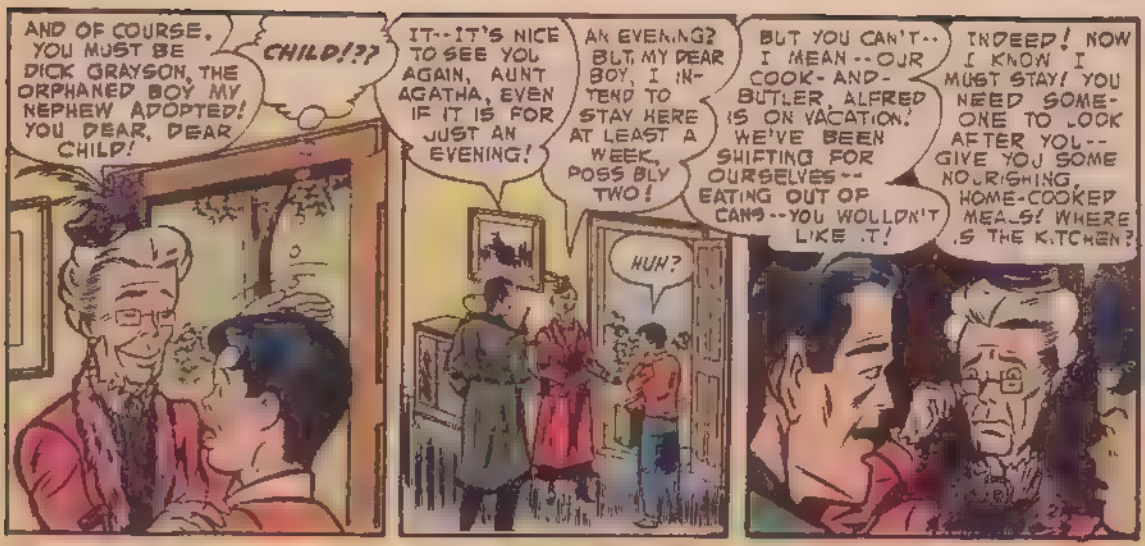
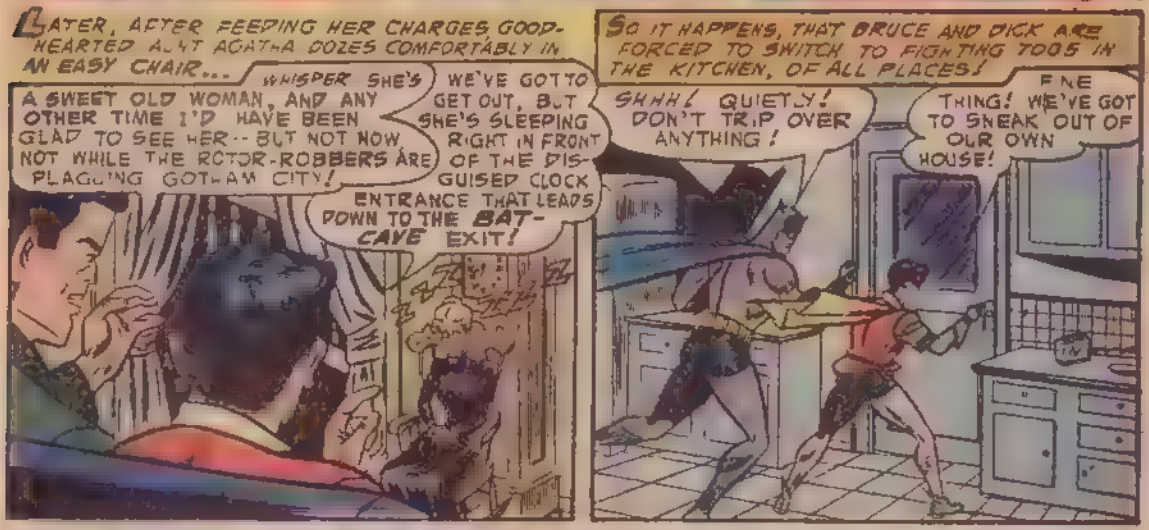
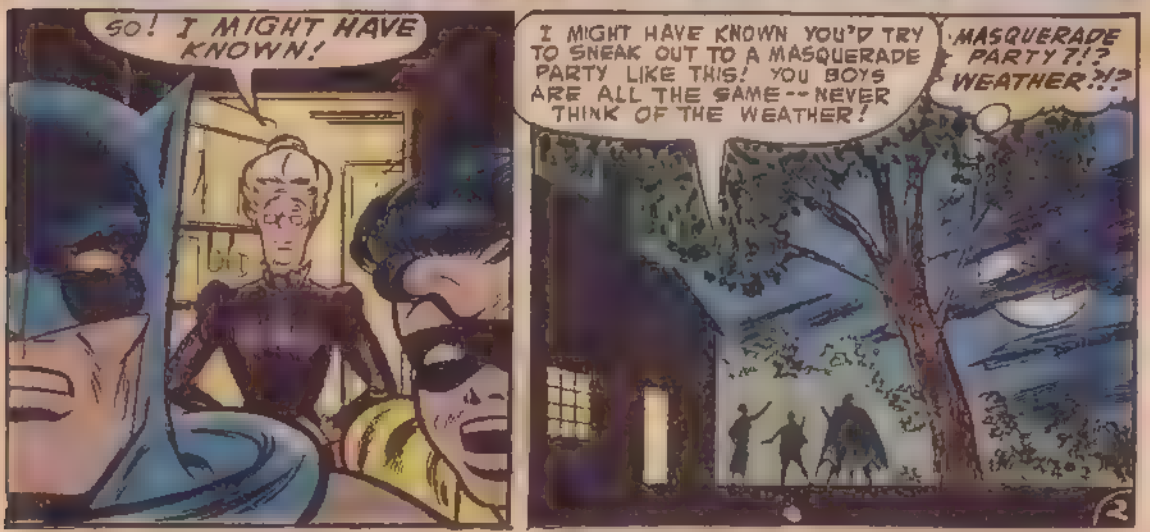

BATMAN
ROBIN
BOB KANE
ALWAYS, BATMAN HAS HAD ONE NIGHTMARE--THAT HIS TRUE IDENTITY WOULD BE UNMASKED AS BRUCE WAYNE, SOCIALITE! AND SUDDENLY THAT NIGHTMARE COMES TRUE, AND IRONICALLY, THE ONE WHO RIPS AWAY HIS DISGUISE IS A BELOVED RELATIVE WHO MEANS HIM NO HARM! WHAT NOW? DOES THIS HAPPEN? ONLY ONE PERSON IS QUALIFIED TO GIVE THOSE ANSWERS --
"BRUCE WAYNE'S AUNT AGATHA!"
WHY, BRUCE-- WHATEVER ARE YOU DOING, WEARING THIS FANTASTIC COSTUME?
ULP. AUNT AGATHA!
FROM: BATMAN NO. 89 (FEB., 1955).

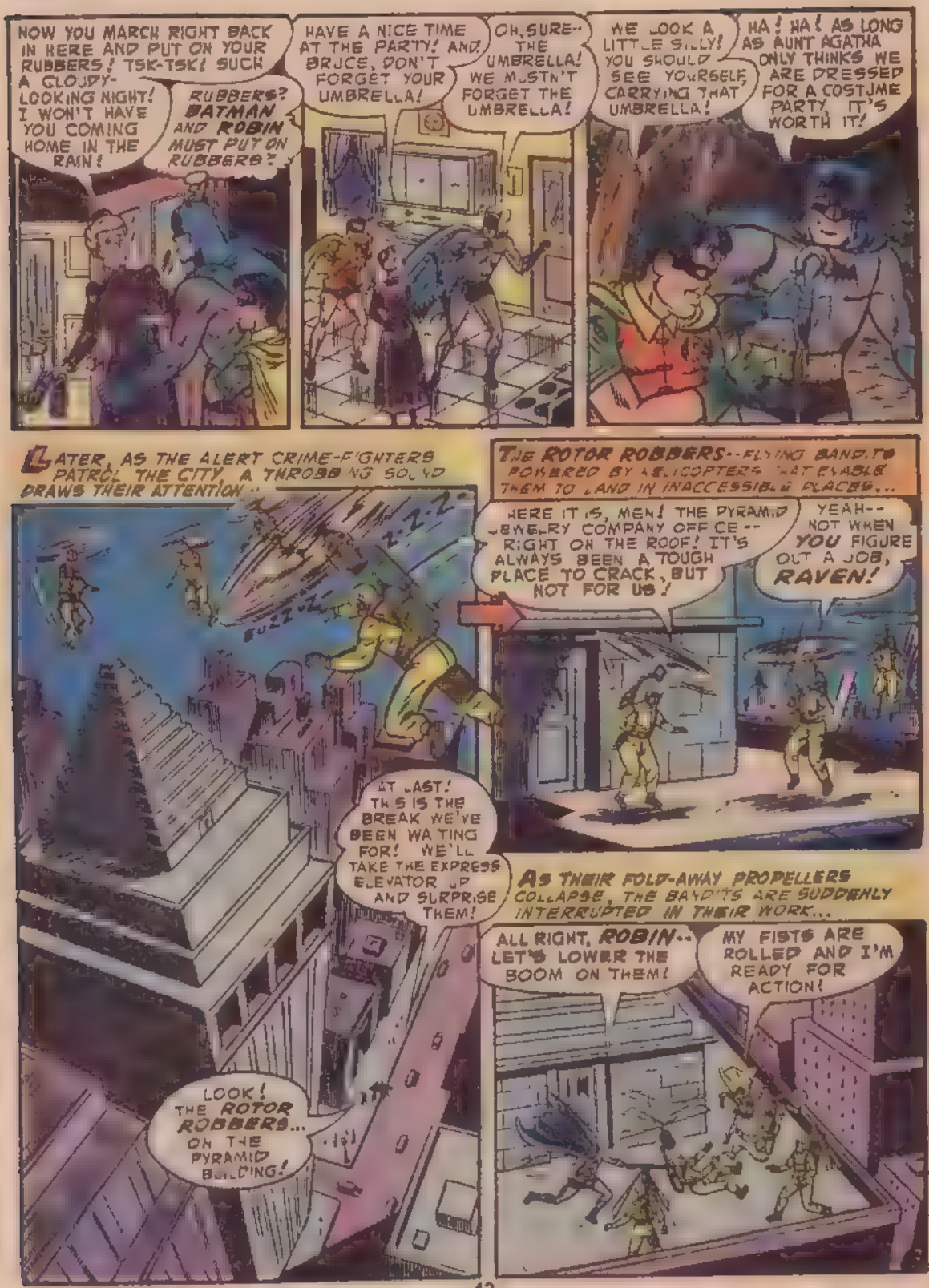
ONE NIGHT, AS BRUCE WAYNE AND HIS WARD, DICK GRAYSON, ARE ABOUT TO DON THEIR CRIME-FIGHTING GARB OF BATMAN AND ROBIN, THE BOY WONDER..
THE DOORBELL! WHAT A TIME FOR A VISITOR!
HIDE THESE COSTUMES! I'LL GET RID OF WHOEVER IT IS!


BRUCE, MY DEAR, DEAR BOY! HOW WONDERFUL TO SEE YOU AGAIN AFTER ALL THESE YEARS!
AUNT AGATHA! ULP!


AND OF COURSE, YOU MUST BE DICK GRAYSON, THE ORPHANED BOY MY NEPHEW ADOPTED! YOU DEAR, DEAR CHILD!
CHILD!??
IT--IT'S NICE TO SEE YOU AGAIN, AUNT AGATHA, EVEN IF IT IS FOR JUST AN EVENING!
AN EVENING? BUT, MY DEAR BOY, I INTEND TO STAY HERE AT LEAST A WEEK, POSSIBLY TWO!
HUH?
BUT YOU CAN'T-- I MEAN--OUR COOK-AND-BUTLER, ALFRED IS ON VACATION! WE'VE BEEN SHIFTING FOR OURSELVES--EATING OUT OF CANS--YOU WOULDN'T LIKE IT!
INDEED! NOW I KNOW I MUST STAY! YOU NEED SOMEONE TO LOOK AFTER YOU--GIVE YOU SOME NOURISHING, HOME-COOKED MEALS! WHERE IS THE KITCHEN?

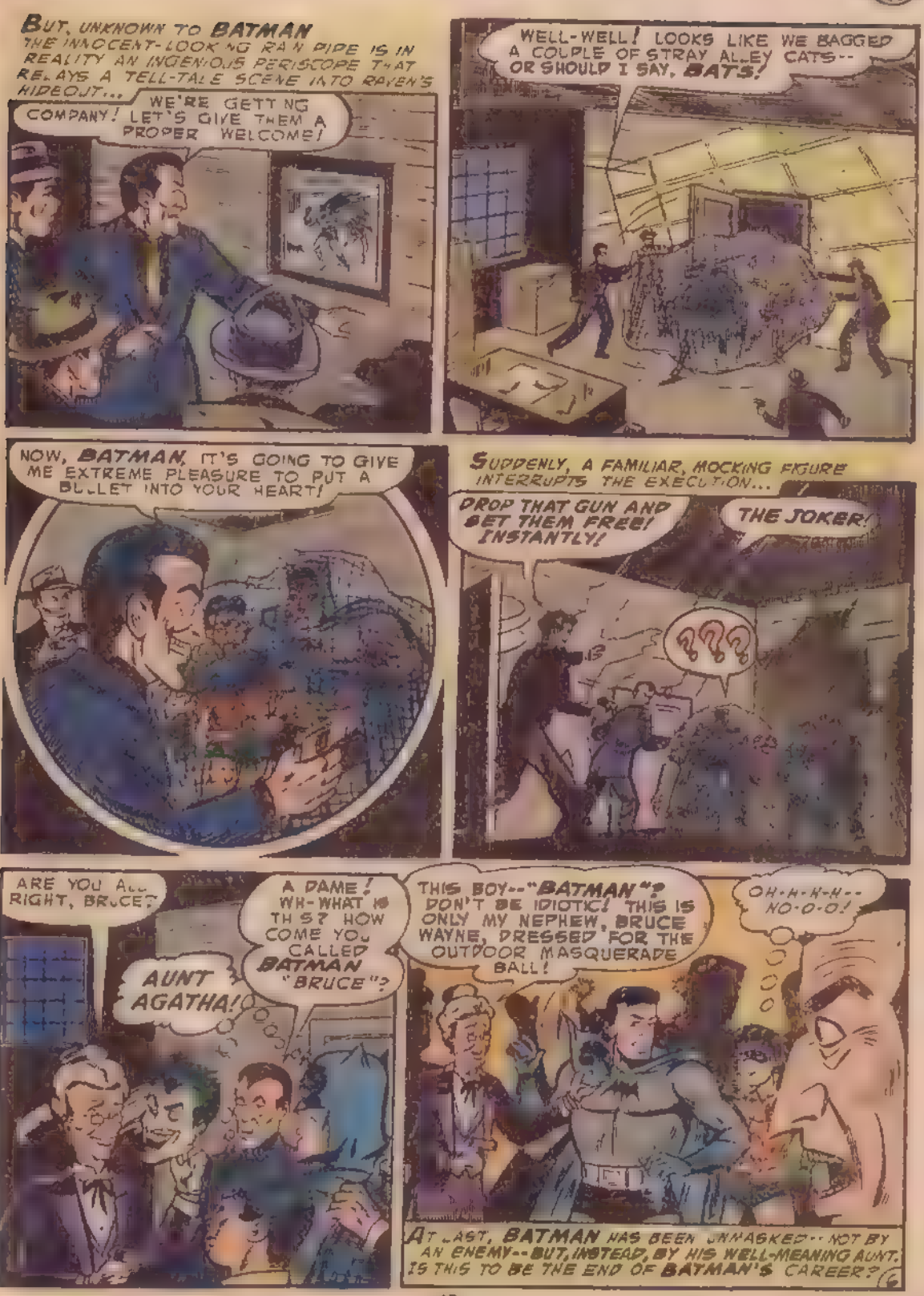

LATER, AFTER FEEDING HER CHARGES, GOOD-HEARTED AUNT AGATHA DOZES COMFORTABLY IN AN EASY CHAIR...
WHISPER SHE'S A SWEET OLD WOMAN, AND ANY OTHER TIME I'D HAVE BEEN GLAD TO SEE HER--BUT NOT NOW, NOT WHILE THE ROTOR-ROBBERS ARE PLAGUING GOTHAM CITY!
WE'VE GOT TO GET OUT, BUT SHE'S SLEEPING RIGHT IN FRONT OF THE DISGUISED CLOCK ENTRANCE THAT LEADS DOWN TO THE BAT-CAVE EXIT!
SO IT HAPPENS, THAT BRUCE AND DICK ARE FORCED TO SWITCH TO FIGHTING TOOLS IN THE KITCHEN, OF ALL PLACES!
SHHH! QUIETLY! DON'T TRIP OVER ANYTHING!
FINE THING! WE'VE GOT TO SNEAK OUT OF OUR OWN HOUSE!


SO! I MIGHT HAVE KNOWN!
I MIGHT HAVE KNOWN YOU'D TRY TO SNEAK OUT TO A MASQUERADE PARTY LIKE THIS! YOU BOYS ARE ALL THE SAME--NEVER THINK OF THE WEATHER!
MASQUERADE PARTY?!? WEATHER?!?

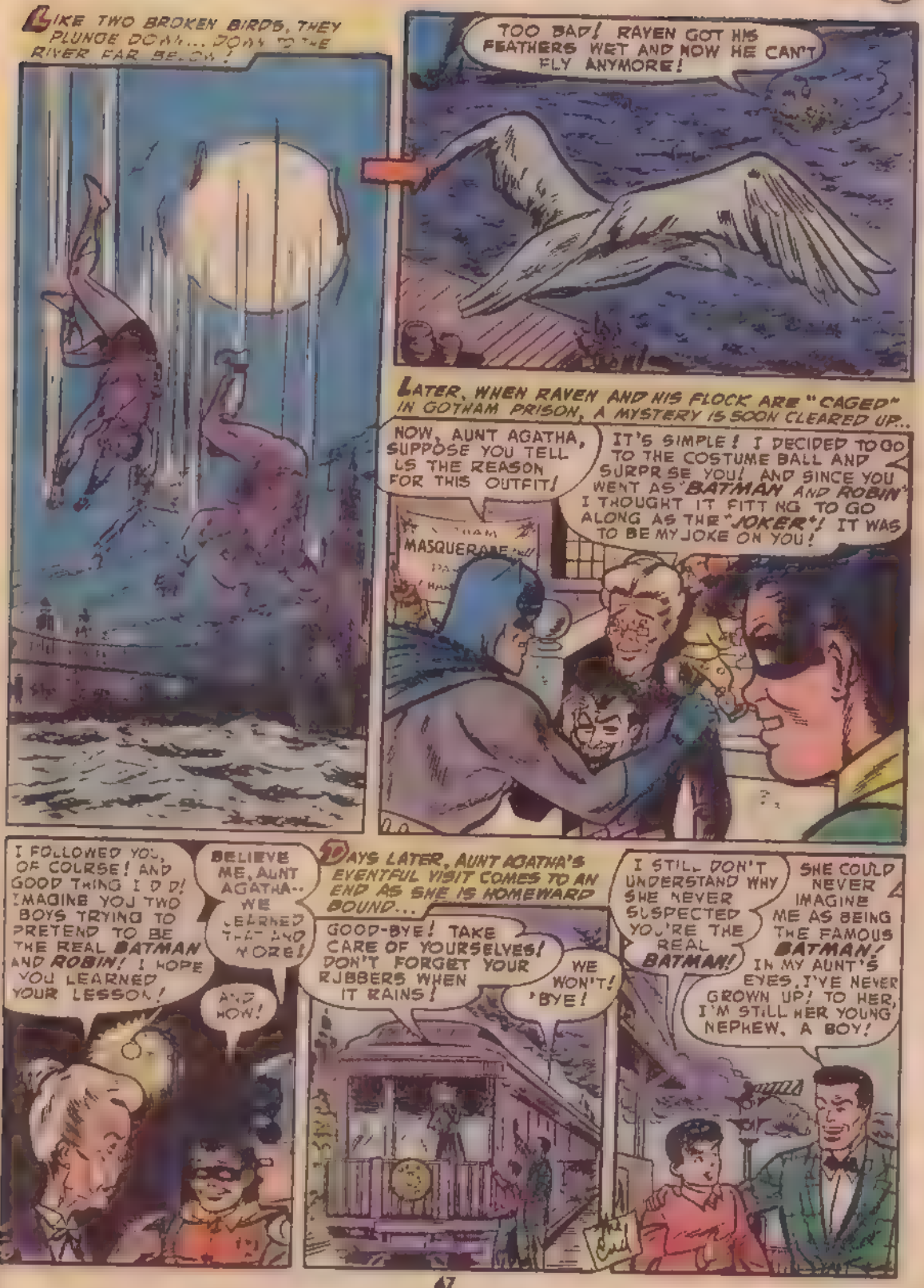

NOW YOU MARCH RIGHT BACK IN HERE AND PUT ON YOUR RUBBERS! TSK-TSK! SUCH A GLOOPY-LOOKING NIGHT! I WON'T HAVE YOU COMING HOME IN THE RAIN!
RUBBERS? BATMAN AND ROBIN MUST PUT ON RUBBERS?
HAVE A NICE TIME AT THE PARTY! AND BRUCE, DON'T FORGET YOUR UMBRELLA!
OH, SURE-- THE UMBRELLA! WE MUSTN'T FORGET THE UMBRELLA!
WE LOOK A LITTLE SILLY! YOU SHOULD SEE YOURSELF CARRYING THAT UMBRELLA!
HA! HA! AS LONG AS AUNT AGATHA ONLY THINKS WE ARE DRESSED FOR A COSTUME PARTY, IT'S WORTH IT!
LATER, AS THE ALERT CRIME-FIGHTERS PATROL THE CITY, A THROBBING SOUND DRAWS THEIR ATTENTION...
THE ROTOR ROBBERS--FLYING BANDITS POWERED BY HELICOPTERS THAT ENABLE THEM TO LAND IN INACCESSIBLE PLACES...
HERE IT IS, MEN! THE PYRAMID JEWELRY COMPANY OFFICE-- RIGHT ON THE ROOF! IT'S ALWAYS BEEN A TOUGH PLACE TO CRACK, BUT NOT FOR US!
YEAH-- NOT WHEN YOU FIGURE OUT A JOB, RAVEN!
BUZZ-Z-Z-Z
AT LAST! THIS IS THE BREAK WE'VE BEEN WAITING FOR! WE'LL TAKE THE EXPRESS ELEVATOR UP AND SURPRISE THEM!
LOOK! THE ROTOR ROBBERS... ON THE PYRAMID BUILDING!
AS THEIR FOLD-AWAY PROPELLERS COLLAPSE, THE BANDITS ARE SUDDENLY INTERRUPTED IN THEIR WORK...
ALL RIGHT, ROBIN-- LET'S LOWER THE BOOM ON THEM!
MY FISTS ARE ROLLED AND I'M READY FOR ACTION!

YOU'VE JUST BEEN HIT BY A GUIDED MISSILE--MY FIST!
I THINK IT'S ABOUT TIME BATMAN HAD HIS WINGS CLIPPED!
YOU'VE ALWAYS BEEN A HIGH-FLYING BIRD, BATMAN--BUT THIS TIME YOU'RE HEADED FOR A FALL!
LIKE A HAWK POUNCING ON HIS PREY, THE FLYING BANDIT NOW HOLDS BATMAN HELPLESS IN HIS GRIP!
HA! HA! SO, YOU WANT TO BE FREE, EH, BATMAN? STOP YOUR STRUGGLING--
--I'M ONLY TOO GLAD TO OBLIGE! HAPPY LANDINGS! HA! HA!
BUT BATMAN'S REFLEXES RESPOND TO HIS PERIL IN THE SPLIT-SECOND ACTION! HIS THUMB PRESSES THE UMBRELLA CATCH AND..
THE TAUT SILK CATCHES THE AIR, CHECKING HIS FALL--GIVING HIM PRECIOUS INSTANTS IN WHICH TO STEER HIMSELF TOWARD A PENTHOUSE AWNING BELOW
A THREE-POINT LANDING--RIGHT ON TARGET!

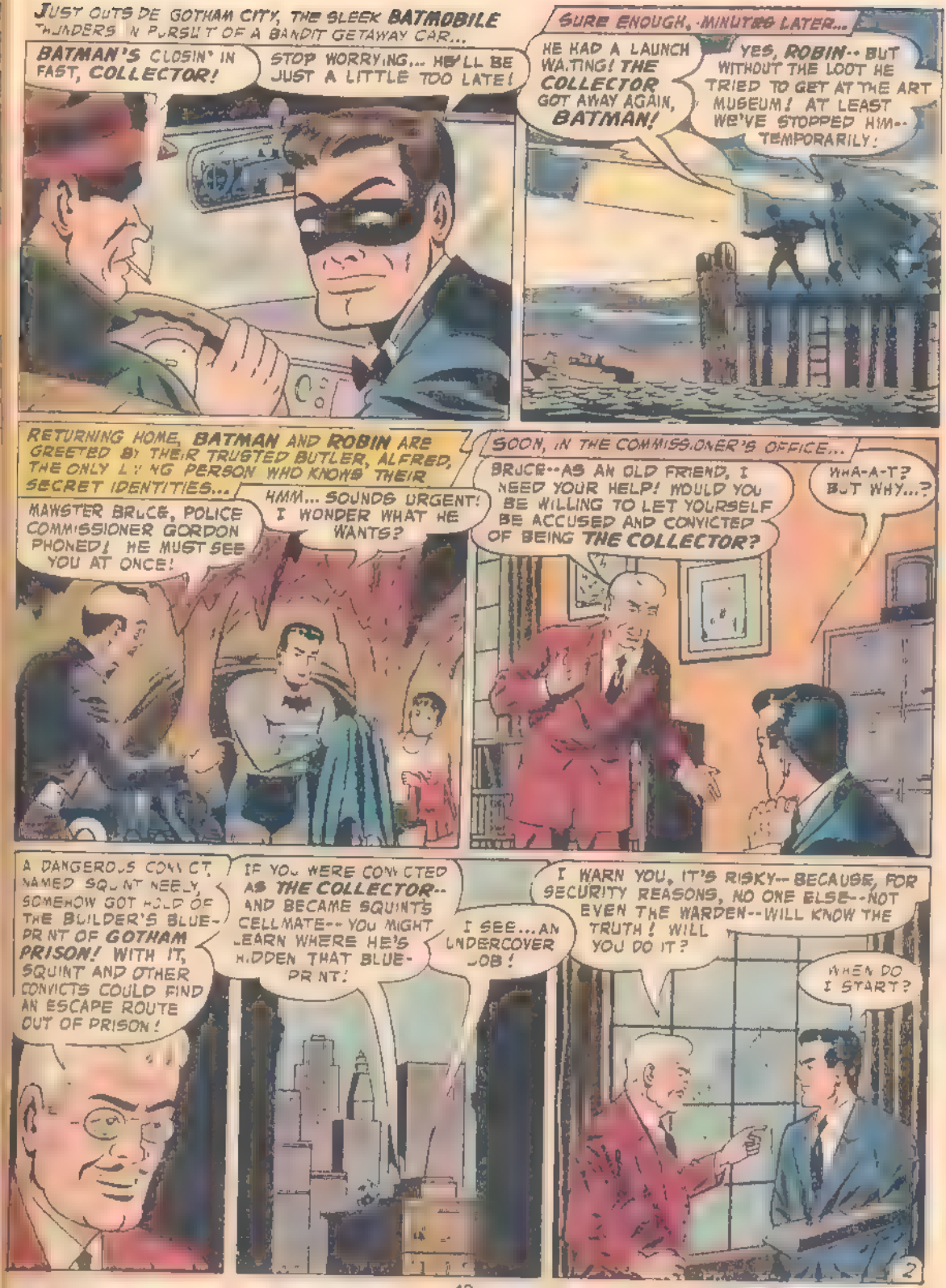
LATER... BLESS AUNT AGATHA! SHE KNEW WHAT SHE WAS DOING WHEN SHE MADE ME TAKE THIS UMBRELLA! THAT WAS QUITE A "STORM" I WEATHERED!
SHE WAS RIGHT IN MORE WAYS THAN ONE! IT'S STARTING TO RAIN!
LATER, WHEN THEY RETURN HOME... MY, WHAT A RAINSTORM! BUT DON'T WORRY! I HEARD ALL ABOUT IT ON THE RADIO.. THEY POSTPONED THE OUTDOOR MASQUERADE PARTY AT GOTHAM PARK TILL TOMORROW NIGHT!
OF COURSE! THE OUTDOOR YEARLY COSTUME BALL! IT'S PERFECT! IT GIVES US THE PERFECT EXCUSE FOR WEARING THESE COSTUMES AGAIN TOMORROW NIGHT!
THE NEXT DAY, DUTIFUL NEPHEW BRUCE TAKES AUNT AGATHA AND DICK ON A SIGHTSEEING TOUR OF GOTHAM CITY...
FROM THE ROOF OF THE STATE BUILDING, YOU CAN SEE PRACTICALLY THE ENTIRE CITY! ENJOYING THE TELESCOPE, AUNT AGATHA?
OH, YES! DICK, WHY DON'T YOU HAVE A LOOK, TOO?
OKAY!
AS DICK IDLY TAKES IN A SWEEPING VIEW OF THE SKYLINE SUDDENLY HE FOCUSES ON A FAMILIAR FACE...
IT'S RAVEN, THE ROTOR ROBBER! THAT WAREHOUSE -- THAT MUST BE THE BANDIT HIDEOUT!
LATER, THE MOON LOOKS DOWN ON TWO CAPED FIGURES MOVING WITH THE STEALTH OF SHADOWS...
ALL RIGHT, ROBIN -- LET'S GO IN AND TAKE THEM!
WAREHOUSE
THAT NIGHT, BRUCE AND DICK BRAZENLY PARADE BEFORE AUNT AGATHA IN THEIR "MASQUERADE PARTY" COSTUMES...
I'M A LITTLE TIRED! I BELIEVE I'LL TURN IN EARLY TONIGHT! HAVE A NICE TIME AT THE PARTY -- AND DON'T COME HOME TOO LATE!


BUT, UNKNOWN TO BATMAN THE INNOCENT-LOOKING RAIN PIPE IS IN REALITY AN INGENIOUS PERISCOPE THAT RELAYS A TELL-TALE SCENE INTO RAVEN'S HIDEOUT...
WE'RE GETTING COMPANY! LET'S GIVE THEM A PROPER WELCOME!
WELL-WELL! LOOKS LIKE WE BAGGED A COUPLE OF STRAY ALLEY CATS-- OR SHOULD I SAY, BATS!
NOW, BATMAN, IT'S GOING TO GIVE ME EXTREME PLEASURE TO PUT A BULLET INTO YOUR HEART!
SUDDENLY, A FAMILIAR, MOCKING FIGURE INTERRUPTS THE EXECUTION...
DROP THAT GUN AND GET THEM FREE! INSTANTLY!
THE JOKER!
???
ARE YOU ALL RIGHT, BRUCE?
A DAME! WH-WHAT IS THIS? HOW COME YOU CALLED BATMAN "BRUCE"?
AUNT AGATHA!
THIS BOY--"BATMAN"? DON'T BE IDIOTIC! THIS IS ONLY MY NEPHEW, BRUCE WAYNE, DRESSED FOR THE OUTDOOR MASQUERADE BALL!
OH-H-H-H-- NO-O-O!
AT LAST, BATMAN HAS BEEN UNMASKED-- NOT BY AN ENEMY--BUT, INSTEAD, BY HIS WELL-MEANING AUNT. IS THIS TO BE THE END OF BATMAN'S CAREER?

BOSS, MAYBE IT'S A TRICK! IT'S GOTTA BE BATMAN!
NAW! IF WAYNE WAS REALLY BATMAN, YOU DON'T REALLY THINK HIS OWN AUNT WOULD HAVE UNMASKED HIM, DO YOU? NAW-- WE MADE A MISTAKE, THAT'S ALL!
THEN HOW COME THEY WUZ SNOOPIN' AROUND?
FOOL SH MAN! IF YOU WERE WEARING A "BATMAN" COSTUME, AND SAW A CHANCE TO CAPTURE A THIEF, WOULDN'T YOU DO IT? IT'S SIMPLY A CASE OF MY NEPHEW TRYING TO BE LIKE HIS IDOL--BATMAN!
YOU FOLKS CAN STICK AROUND PLAYING QUIZ GAMES--I'M GETTING OUT OF HERE!
GO AFTER THAT VILLAIN, BRUCE! DICK AND I CAN MANAGE THESE COWARDS! IF ONE OF THEM MOVES AN EYE-LASH, I'LL SHOOT!
HEY-- LADY, TAKE IT EASY WITH THAT ROD!
HE'S A FAST MAN ON THE TAKE-OFF... BUT WITH A PIN-WHEEL ON MY BACK I SHOULD BE ABLE TO BRING HIM IN!
MOMENTS LATER, BATMAN FLIES IN SWIFT PURSUIT OF THE SKY PIRATE!
TOO BAD, "BATMAN"-- BUT MY ROTOR OUTFIT CARRIES A WELL-EQUIPPED GUN HOLSTER! NOW--YOU'RE ABOUT TO BECOME A DEAD PIGEON!
ONLY ONE CHANCE-- AND I MUST TAKE IT!
BUZ-Z-Z-Z-Z-Z-Z
DELIBERATELY, BATMAN DARTS FORWARD UNTIL THE PROPELLERS TANGLE IN A SHATTER OF FLYING SPLINTERS!
SH!
7


LIKE TWO BROKEN BIRDS, THEY PLUNGE DOWN... DOWN TO THE RIVER FAR BELOW!
TOO BAD! RAVEN GOT HIS FEATHERS WET AND NOW HE CAN'T FLY ANYMORE!
LATER, WHEN RAVEN AND HIS FLOCK ARE "CAGED" IN GOTHAM PRISON, A MYSTERY IS SOON CLEARED UP...
NOW, AUNT AGATHA, SUPPOSE YOU TELL US THE REASON FOR THIS OUTFIT!
IT'S SIMPLE! I DECIDED TO GO TO THE COSTUME BALL AND SURPRISE YOU! AND SINCE YOU WENT AS "BATMAN AND ROBIN" I THOUGHT IT FITTING TO GO ALONG AS THE "JOKER"! IT WAS TO BE MY JOKE ON YOU!
MASQUERADE
I FOLLOWED YOU, OF COURSE! AND GOOD THING I DID! IMAGINE YOU TWO BOYS TRYING TO PRETEND TO BE THE REAL BATMAN AND ROBIN! I HOPE YOU LEARNED YOUR LESSON!
BELIEVE ME, AUNT AGATHA-- WE LEARNED THAT AND MORE!
AND NOW!
30 DAYS LATER, AUNT AGATHA'S EVENTFUL VISIT COMES TO AN END AS SHE IS HOMEWARD BOUND...
GOOD-BYE! TAKE CARE OF YOURSELVES! DON'T FORGET YOUR RUBBERS WHEN IT RAINS!
WE WON'T! 'BYE!
I STILL DON'T UNDERSTAND WHY SHE NEVER SUSPECTED YOU'RE THE REAL BATMAN!
SHE COULD NEVER IMAGINE ME AS BEING THE FAMOUS BATMAN! IN MY AUNT'S EYES, I'VE NEVER GROWN UP! TO HER, I'M STILL HER YOUNG NEPHEW, A BOY!

BATMAN
WITH ROBIN
IT WAS LIKE A NIGHTMARE--BRUCE WAYNE, SECRETLY BATMAN, NOT ONLY CONVICTED OF BEING A BANDIT--BUT A MURDERER AS WELL! AND SO, WITH TIME RUNNING OUT, ROBIN, THE BOY WONDER, WAS FORCED TO ASK THE HELP OF THAT RIVAL CRIME-FIGHTER, BATWOMAN! CERTAINLY, BATMAN WAS NEVER MORE HELPLESS THAN WHEN HIS DOUBLE-LIFE WAS AT STAKE, BECAUSE OF...
THE CRIME OF BRUCE WAYNE
ROBIN... THERE ARE ONLY A FEW HOURS LEFT TO SAVE BRUCE WAYNE!
YES, BATWOMAN.
AND TO SAVE BATMAN, TOO!
LATE EDITION
Gotham Gazette
5¢
BRUCE WAYNE TO BE EXECUTED TONIGHT
BRUCE WAYNE
FROM DETECTIVE #249 (NOV, 1957)


JUST OUTSIDE GOTHAM CITY, THE SLEEK BATMOBILE THUNDERS IN PURSUIT OF A BANDIT GETAWAY CAR...
BATMAN'S CLOSIN' IN FAST, COLLECTOR!
STOP WORRYING... HE'LL BE JUST A LITTLE TOO LATE!
SURE ENOUGH, MINUTES LATER...
HE HAD A LAUNCH WAITING! THE COLLECTOR GOT AWAY AGAIN, BATMAN!
YES, ROBIN-- BUT WITHOUT THE LOOT HE TRIED TO GET AT THE ART MUSEUM! AT LEAST WE'VE STOPPED HIM-- TEMPORARILY!
RETURNING HOME, BATMAN AND ROBIN ARE GREETED BY THEIR TRUSTED BUTLER, ALFRED, THE ONLY LIVING PERSON WHO KNOWS THEIR SECRET IDENTITIES...
MAWSTER BRUCE, POLICE COMMISSIONER GORDON PHONED! HE MUST SEE YOU AT ONCE!
HMM... SOUNDS URGENT! I WONDER WHAT HE WANTS?
SOON, IN THE COMMISSIONER'S OFFICE...
BRUCE--AS AN OLD FRIEND, I NEED YOUR HELP! WOULD YOU BE WILLING TO LET YOURSELF BE ACCUSED AND CONVICTED OF BEING THE COLLECTOR?
WHA-A-T? BUT WHY...?
A DANGEROUS CONVICT NAMED SQUINT NEELY, SOMEHOW GOT HOLD OF THE BUILDER'S BLUEPRINT OF GOTHAM PRISON! WITH IT, SQUINT AND OTHER CONVICTS COULD FIND AN ESCAPE ROUTE OUT OF PRISON!
IF YOU WERE CONVICTED AS THE COLLECTOR-- AND BECAME SQUINT'S CELLMATE-- YOU MIGHT LEARN WHERE HE'S HIDDEN THAT BLUEPRINT!
I SEE... AN UNDERCOVER JOB!
I WARN YOU, IT'S RISKY-- BECAUSE, FOR SECURITY REASONS, NO ONE ELSE--NOT EVEN THE WARDEN--WILL KNOW THE TRUTH! WILL YOU DO IT?
WHEN DO I START?
2

NEXT DAY, THE SENSATIONAL NEWS BREAKS...
Gotham Gazette 54
BRUCE WAYNE UNMASKED AS THE COLLECTOR
DAILY TRIBUNE
IMMEDIATE TRIAL SET FOR BRUCE (COLLECTOR) WAYNE
THE TRIAL OF BRUCE WAYNE BEGINS...
I CHARGE THAT ALTHOUGH WEALTHY, BRUCE WAYNE IS A BORED, SPOILED PLAYBOY WHO TURNED TO CRIME FOR EXCITEMENT!
I HOPE THAT THE FAKE 'EVIDENCE' PLANTED IN MY HOME, BY COMMISSIONER GORDON, CONVINCES THE JURY.
IT DOES--AND THE JURY RETURNS WITH A SWIFT VERDICT...
WE FIND THE DEFENDANT--GUILTY!
SO FAR, SO GOOD!
NEXT DAY, ACCORDING TO PLAN, BRUCE BECOMES SQUINT NEALY'S CELLMATE AT GOTHAM PRISON...
SQUINT IS IGNORING ME... WON'T EVEN LET ME TALK TO HIM! BUT MONEY TALKS--AND SQUINT KNOWS I'M WEALTHY...
BAH! I'VE GOT A FORTUNE OUTSIDE--BUT WHAT GOOD DOES IT DO ME? I'D GIVE $50,000 TO ANYONE WHO COULD GET ME OUT OF HERE!
SO GRAND? WAYNE, MAYBE YOU AND I COULD DO BUSINESS!
NEXT EVENING, AS BRUCE, SQUINT AND OTHER CONVICTS VOLUNTEER TO WORK THE LATE SHIFT IN THE LAUNDRY...
GET SET, WAYNE.. WE'RE ALL CRASHIN' OUT TONIGHT! FIRST, I GOTTA TAKE CARE OF THAT GUARD!
LET ME DO IT! SQUINT MIGHT KILL THE GUARD--I'LL JUST STUN HIM!

THAT DONE, BRUCE REJOINS SQUINT, WHO OVERTURNS A VAT OF SOAP FLAKES...
SMART, EH? WHO'D EVER THINK OF LOOKIN' FOR A BLUEPRINT IN HERE? NOW WE'RE READY TO LAM.
NO, SQUINT--YOU AND THE OTHERS AREN'T GOING ANYWHERE EXCEPT BACK TO YOUR CELLS!
HUH--? WHY, YOU DOUBLE-CROSSER...
AS BRUCE RINGS THE ALARM, THE ENRAGED SQUINT GRABS AN IRON BAR, AND IN MAD ONRUSH, HE SLIDES ON THE SLIPPERY SOAP FLAKES, AND...
LOOK OUT!
CLANG!
CLANG!
UH..
AS BRUCE BENDS OVER THE FALLEN MAN, THE WARDEN AND GUARDS RUSH IN...
HE... HE'S DEAD!
DON'T MOVE! WHAT HAPPENED HERE?
ANXIOUS FOR REVENGE, THE CRIMINALS QUICKLY CONCOCT THEIR OWN STORY...
BRUCE WAYNE HAS A BLUEPRINT OF THE PRISON! HE WANTED US TO BREAK OUT WITH HIM--BUT WE REFUSED!
WHEN SQUINT RANG THE ALARM, WAYNE GOT SORE AND SLUGGED HIM WITH THAT IRON!
AND, WHEN THE LAUNDRY GUARD REGAINS CONSCIOUSNESS...
IT'S HIM, WARDEN... HE'S THE ONE WHO SOCKED ME!
THAT, ADDED TO THE IRON AND BLUEPRINT YOU'RE STILL HOLDING, IS ENOUGH EVIDENCE TO GET YOU THE DEATH PENALTY, WAYNE!

WAIT! CALL UP POLICE COMMISSIONER GORDON! HE'LL CLEAR ME!
GORDON? THAT'S IMPOSSIBLE! HE WAS IN AN AUTO ACCIDENT--AND HAS BEEN IN A COMA EVER SINCE!
THE MACHINERY OF THE LAW GRINDS SWIFTLY--AND BRUCE SOON FINDS HIMSELF IN THAT PLACE OF LAST HOPES...THE DEATH HOUSE!
WHEN DO YOU GET IT, WAYNE?
CHEER UP, WAYNE... SOON, ALL YOUR TROUBLES WILL BE OVER!
MEANWHILE, IN THE BIZARRE HIDEOUT OF--THE COLLECTOR...
BRUCE WAYNE GETS DEATH PENALTY
HA, HA... WAYNE--ARRESTED FOR MY CRIMES--AND NOW HE'S TO DIE!
SOON, BRUCE RECEIVES A TERSE...LETTER...
I'LL PROVE YOU'RE INNOCENT, BRUCE! I'LL...
NO--YOU CAN'T DO IT ALONE, DICK! YOU'LL NEED HELP! GO TO THE BATWOMAN!
LATER, AT THE HOME OF WEALTHY HEIRESS, KATHY KANE--WHO ONLY BATMAN AND ROBIN KNOW IS THE BATWOMAN...
ROBIN! BUT WHERE IS BATMAN?
HE...HE'S AWAY... IN EUROPE.. ON ANOTHER CASE! THAT'S WHY HE WANTS YOU TO WORK WITH ME--TO FREE BRUCE WAYNE! WILL YOU DO IT?
YES--ON ONE CONDITION... THAT YOU WORK OUT OF MY BAT-CAVE, AND THAT YOU FOLLOW MY ORDERS, JUST AS YOU WOULD BATMAN'S!
OKAY--YOU'RE THE BOSS!

NIGHT-- AND THROUGH THE DARKENED GOTHAM MUSEUM, TWO CAPED FIGURES MOVE WARILY...
THIS IS THE LAST PLACE THE COLLECTOR TRIED TO ROB-- WHEN YOU AND BATMAN STOPPED HIM! WE MIGHT UNCOVER A CLUE HERE!
SUDDENLY, MOVING THROUGH THE MUSEUM FROM ANOTHER DIRECTION...
THE COLLECTOR!
IT'S THAT KID, ROBIN-- AND BATWOMAN!
AS ONE BANDIT CHARGES, THE ALERT BATWOMAN EXTRACTS A POWDER-PUFF FROM HER UTILITY SHOULDER-BAG, AND...
ACHOO! POWDER--IN MY FACE! ACHOO! CAN'T STOP SNEEZING!
ROBIN'S KNOTTED FIST FINDS THE COLLECTOR'S CHIN..
BLAM
FROM NOW ON, YOU'LL BE COLLECTING LUMPS!
WET PAINT
B. T. W. THAT SAME INSTANT
HIS BULLET-- IT CLIPPED THE ROPE HOLDING UP THAT AZTEC SNAKE-BIRD SCULPTURE... AND BATWOMAN'S RIGHT UNDER IT!
INSTINCTIVELY, THE BOY WONDER BORES FORWARD LIKE A CANNONBALL...
CRASH
6

AND THAT DELAY IS ENOUGH FOR THE BANDITS TO MAKE THEIR ESCAPE...
HE...--AT LEAST THE COLLECTOR DIDN'T GET WHAT HE CAME TO STEAL
YES--FOR THE SECOND TIME! THERE'S SOMETHING HERE THAT HE WANTS DESPERATELY FOR HIS COLLECTION--AND I'VE A HUNCH HE'LL TRY FOR IT AGAIN!
ANYHOW, HERE'S OUR FIRST CLUE! WHEN YOU SLAMMED THE COLLECTOR AGAINST THIS WALL, A FEW HAIRS STUCK TO THIS TACKY PAINT!
WET PAINT
BUT FIRST, THE CRIME-FIGHTERS GO TO POLICE HEADQUARTERS TO TELL THEIR STORY...
AFTER JESSE JAMES DIED LOTS OF CROOKS CLAIMED THEY WERE THE REAL JESSE JAMES! THERE'S ALWAYS SOME PUNK WHO TRIES TO IMITATE A NOTORIOUS CROOK! SORRY, ROBIN--WE'VE GOT THE COLLECTOR IN THE DEATH HOUSE!
DON'T YOU SEE? BRUCE WAYNE CAN'T BE THE COLLECTOR IF WE SAW HIM IN THE MUSEUM!
IN THE MEANTIME, WHERE BRUCE WAITS ANXIOUSLY FOR A WORD OF HOPE...
ONE MORE DAY--24 HOURS--THAT'S ALL I'VE GOT LEFT! AFTER TOMORROW, THERE MAY NEVER BE ANOTHER TOMORROW FOR ME!
WHILE IN THE BATWOMAN'S SANCTUM, THE ONE LINK TO THE COLLECTOR'S IDENTITY IS PUT IN A CHEMICAL SOLUTION...
LOOK--THE HAIRS HAVE TURNED BLOND! AT LAST, WE KNOW ONE THING...THE COLLECTOR IS A BLOND MAN WHO HAS DYED HIS HAIR BLACK!
IT'S POSSIBLE SHE OVERLOOKED SOMETHING! I'LL SECRETLY DOUBLE-CHECK THOSE HAIRS MYSELF IN THE BAT-CAVE!
LATER, ALONE IN THE BAT-CAVE'S LAB...
KNOTS--WHERE ROOTS SHOULD BE! KNOTS LIKE THAT ARE USED IN THE MAKING OF TOUPEES...
...AND TOUPEE HAIRS ARE DYED TO MATCH THE HAIR OF THE CUSTOMER! THAT MEANS THE COLLECTOR IS REALLY BLACK-HAIRED AND BALDING!

THE FOLLOWING NIGHT, AS BATWOMAN AND ROBIN PAY A RETURN VISIT TO THE MUSEUM...
YOU WERE RIGHT, ROBIN... THERE IS SOMETHING HERE THAT HE WANTS BADLY FOR HIS COLLECTION!
BUT WHEN THE PAIR CHARGES FORWARD INTO THE SIAMESE EXHIBIT...
LOOK... THREE COLLECTORS!
HE'S DISGUISED HIS MEN TO TRICK US! BUT WHICH IS THE REAL ONE?
ON A PRE-ARRANGED PLAN, EACH COLLECTOR RUNS FOR A DIFFERENT EXIT...
I'LL GO AFTER THAT ONE... YOU TAKE ANOTHER ONE!
YES -- BUT WHICH ONE? THEM
WELL-- I CAN'T LET BOTH GET AWAY, SO... HERE GOES!
BUT AS ROBIN PURSUES HIS CHOSEN QUARRY, HE LOOKS BACK AND..
THAT ONE--MAKING OFF WITH THE BUDDHA! THAT'S THE REAL COLLECTOR... HIS GREED GAVE HIM AWAY!
ON THE MUSEUM GROUNDS, THE COLLECTOR FIRES A SHOT--SKYWARD...
I WONDER IF THAT KID IS TAILING ME?
BOOM
BY THE TIME ROBIN GETS TO THE GROUND...
HE'S GONE! BUT HE DROPPED HIS GUN!
ROBIN-- I HEARD A SHOT! ARE YOU ALL RIGHT?
8

AFTER ROBIN EXPLAINS...
HMM. HIS FOOTPRINTS IN THE SOFT GROUND LEAD HERE--AND THEN STOP. HE COULDN'T HAVE BEEN PICKED UP BY A CAR, OR THERE'D BE TIRE MARKS!
IT'S OBVIOUS, ROBIN... THAT SHOT WAS A SIGNAL-- FOR A WAITING HELICOPTER! I'LL NOTIFY THE POLICE TO WATCH FOR IT--THEN WE'LL MEET AT MY LAB TO DUST THIS GUN FOR FINGER-PRINTS.
AFTER BATWOMAN LEAVES, HOWEVER, ROBIN'S KEEN EYES DETECT A NEW LEAD...
FRESH GASOLINE STAINS! WHEN THE COLLECTOR FIRED THAT SHOT UPWARD, THE BULLET ACCIDENTALLY CLIPPED THE HELICOPTER'S FEED LINE! THAT MEANS THE 'COPTER WILL HAVE TO MAKE AN EMERGENCY LANDING SHORTLY... BUT WHERE?
SOON AFTER, IN THE BAT-PLANE...
THERE ARE ONLY CERTAIN PLACES WHERE A HELICOPTER CAN MAKE AN EMERGENCY LANDING--AND STILL REMAIN HIDDEN FROM VIEW!
FINALLY, ATOP A ROOF ONCE USED AS A LANDING FIELD FOR A POSTAL HELICOPTER...
THE GOLD BUDDHA!
THEY COULDN'T WALK THROUGH THE STREETS, CARRYING IT, WITHOUT BEING SEEN. THAT MEANS THE COLLECTOR INTENDS TO RETURN FOR IT WITH A CAR, LATER TONIGHT!
UPON REJOINING BATWOMAN IN HER BAT-CAVE...
NOT A FINGERPRINT ON THE GUN! THE COLLECTOR MUST WEAR FLESH-COLORED GLOVES... HE DOESN'T MISS A TRICK!
PERHAPS HE DID.
OPENING THE GUN, ROBIN CAREFULLY EXTRACTS AND DUSTS THE CARTRIDGES...
HE DIDN'T WEAR GLOVES WHEN HE LOADED THE GUN! LOOK--TWO PRINTS... AND ONE OF HIS FINGERS HAS A SCAR ON IT!
9

AT THIS VERY MOMENT, IN THE DEATH HOUSE, WHERE TIME IS RUNNING OUT FOR BRUCE WAYNE...
I KNOW
WAYNE, WE'VE BROUGHT YOU SOMETHING TO EAT...
THE CONDEMNED MAN IS ALWAYS GIVEN A FINE DINNER BEFORE... BEFORE HE WALKS THE LAST MILE!
LATER, IN A BUILDING OPPOSITE THE ONE WHERE THE COLLECTOR'S HELICOPTER IS HIDDEN...
ROBIN, WHY DID YOU INSIST WE COME HERE?
JUST WATCH AND SEE...
WITHIN A FEW MINUTES..
THE COLLECTOR--AND HE'S GOT THE GOLD BUDDHA! LET'S STOP HIM!
NO! WE MUST LET HIM LEAD US TO HIS HIDEOUT--WHERE HE'S GOT HIS OTHER LOOT. ONLY THEN CAN WE CONVINCE THE POLICE HE IS THE REAL COLLECTOR--AND GET BRUCE FREED!
A SHORT TIME AFTERWARD...
THIS IS IT! THE COLLECTOR DIDN'T KNOW I HID A SONIC DEVICE IN THE HOLLOW BASE OF THE BUDDHA--AND IT TRANSMITTED A SIGNAL TO THE RECEIVER IN THE BATMOBILE!
INSIDE HIS HIDEAWAY, THE COLLECTOR AVIDLY VIEWS HIS HOARD OF STOLEN ART TREASURES...
AT LAST--IT'S MINE--THE CROWNING TOUCH TO MY COLLECTION! IT'S PRICELESS!
SURE- YOU'LL BE THE RICHEST CONVICT IN PRISON!
EH--? ROBIN- AND THE BATWOMAN!

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STOP THEM, THEY MUSTN'T LEAVE HERE ALIVE
BANG
DIVING INTO AN ANCIENT ROMAN CHARIOT, THE BOY WONDER SENDS IT CAREENING FORWARD.
OOF!
WHILE BATWOMAN COMES UP WITH A TRICK OF HER OWN!
MY "CHARM BRACELET" HANDCUFFS ARE THE LATEST STYLE FOR CROOKS!
CLICK-CLICK
ROBIN--THAT ONE'S TRYING TO SLIP OUT!
NOT IF I CAN HELP IT.
AS THE CLOCK STRIKES, SLICING THE CORD HOLDING A VALUABLE MEDIEVAL TAPESTRY...
BUT, DURING THE CONFUSION, THE WILY COLLECTOR SLIPS INTO A NEARBY ROOM, AND...
NO USE TRYING TO MAKE A GETAWAY! THE BEST THING I CAN DO IS BLUFF MY WAY OUT

BACK IN THE VAULTED ROOM, A UNIFORMED MAN ENTERS...
WE GOT A CALL THAT THERE WAS A ROT GO N' ON HERE! WHAT'S HAPPENED?
THAT Z G-ZAG SCAR ON H S F NGER... THE SAME AS ON THAT CARTRIDGE FROM THE COLLECTOR'S GUN!
I'LL BET THERE'S A BALDING HEAD UNDER THAT CAP-- RIGHT, COLLECTOR?
THE COLLECTOR?
NOT FAR AWAY, WHERE BRUCE WAYNE WALKS THE "LAST MILE"...
SO LONG, WAYNE!
GOODBYE, WAYNE!
ABRUPTLY...
WARDEN! WE'VE GOT HIM-- THE COLLECTOR... THE REAL ONE!
WHAT? THEN WAYNE WASN'T LYING ABOUT BEING FRAMED FOR SQUINT'S DEATH! I'LL CALL THE GOVERNOR FOR A STAY OF EXECUTION!
LATER, AFTER THE CASE HAS BEEN CLEARED UP, AND ROBIN EXPLAINS TO THE BATWOMAN...
ROBIN, I'M SORRY! I SHOULDN'T HAVE BEEN SO SMUG ABOUT THOSE CLUES! I'VE BEEN A FOOL...
NO, BATWOMAN-- FROM WHAT ROBIN TELLS ME, HE COULDN'T HAVE CRACKED THIS CASE WITHOUT YOUR FINE HELP! BATMAN HIMSELF COULDN'T HAVE DONE BETTER!
OH-- DO YOU REALLY THINK SO?
TAKE IT FROM ME, BATWOMAN- BRUCE KNOWS!
NEXT GIANT - FEATURING JIMMY OLSEN - ON SALE ON OR ABOUT JUNE 3RD
THE END
12

GIANT BATMAIL

N-304

Dear Editor:

I think the *Giant Batman* #228 was an excellent issue, one of the best collections yet of the real Batman, the one you should be trying to duplicate today. Just look at any of the six stories here and you will see how a comic should be produced. I should think that with all that you've learned since then and with a much better writing and art staff, you could make today's Batman the best ever.

Maybe you should look even closer at these super-six. In "Outlaw Town, U.S.A.," Batman faced a seemingly insurmountable problem and overcame it with sheer brain power and his near-infallible knowledge of the common criminal. "The Living Batplane" showed Batman's skill at strategy and maneuvers of military precision. "The Duplicate Batman" paid the most attention to scientific detection, as Robin deduced that "Batman" was an impostor. "Gotham City Safari" was a good, old-fashioned murder mystery, replete with an assemblage of suspects and an unexpected ending. Then "Prisoners of the Batcave" showed how Batman could use his wits under pressure, as well as small, interesting details being emphasized in his analysis of the facts while seeking out the killer. Who would think in a million years to locate a murderer by the length of his thumb? Only the Batman, I'll wager. Finally, there was "The Doors That Hid Disaster," a truly fine "death trap" type of story, the type whose like could only be depulicated in a full issue today. But where will he get that full issue, with Robin taking seven pages of his mag? Think about it. The Batman still has a way to go before the past meets the present to result in perfection.

Gary Skinner, Columbus, Ohio

(Well, Julie Schwartz is the man who handles the Batman—but from some of the story conferences we've heard in the office we share with him, you have some really fabulous Batman adventures to look forward to.—E.N.B.)

* * * * *

Dear Editor:

Back in the letter page in *Giant Batman* #223, Steve Beery said that when he read the Joker story from *Batman* #1 (reprinted in Jules Feiffer's *The Great Comic Book Heroes*) and the first Batman story from *Detective* #27 (reprinted in *Detective* #387), he found nothing said or done by Batman or Robin in contrast to their code of not killing.

I was also fortunate enough to read both of these stories and also found that neither Batman nor Robin carried a gun. But I did find some clues to show that they did not work with the police.

In that first Batman story, the Caped Crime-fighter had just finished fighting two crooks on a roof. Commissioner Gordon was saying, "It's the Bat-Man! Get him!" And a police officer is shooting at Batman. This proves the police were after him. Also, two panels earlier, Batman tossed a crook over his shoulder, and after this another policeman is checking out the body of this thug, whom Batman tossed to the pavement. Today he wouldn't throw anyone off a building—he'd save someone who was falling.

In the Joker story, a newspaper headline said: "Batman Captures Joker—Leaves Joker in Front of Police Station and Drives Away." I think this headline proves that Batman was still wanted by the police; otherwise he would have taken the Joker inside.

Kurt Klingenfuss, San Bruno, Calif.

(Right! For those who are interested, the Batman used a gun in Detective *#32. A villain called the Monk turned out to be a vampire– so the Batman shot him through the heart with a silver bullet. The following issue also had a pic of the Batman firing a gun. And in* Batman *#1, he used guns mounted on the Batplane to blast some crooks, as well as a monster which he shot off the top of a building (a la King Kong). Generally, though, he tossed crooks off buildings or cliffs in those lawless days. But then, most super-heroes were then sought by police for taking the law into their own hands—even Superman! E.N.B.)*

* * * * *

Dear Editor:

When I saw the cover of *Giant Batman* #228, I thought of the wrong things. Taking the four scenes clockwise from the top, the first reminded me of *Batman* #166 and 207, but it was neither. The third recalled a story from a Batman paperback book. The last, with the lion, made me think of the Catwoman, but it had nothing to do with her. Now to the stories.

The best was "Prisoners of the Batcave," even though it was only six pages long. Next best, in my mind, was "Outlaw Town, U.S.A." "Prisoners" gave us a view of the brilliant minded Batman, searching for the invisible clues, while the other story showed his gallantry in the midst of countless killers and thieves. I liked this Giant very much, even though there were some better escape stories to choose from.

Tom Elbode, Detroit, Mich.

(Perhaps—but with so many years of Batman to pick from, we took some of the older stories, rather than some tales from later years, which might be deemed better by you . . . though not necessarily by Gary Skinner.—E.N.B.)

* * * * *

Dear Editor:

Having just finished reading *Giant Batman* #228, I congratulate you on your excellent choice of stories.

I'm against unbelievable, super-human crooks, so I loved "The Duplicate Batman." I also like the "old" style and the way the writer fits coincidence into the story.

"The Doors That Hid Disaster" was excellent, the way the Dynamic Duo got out of those traps. Trickery and ignorance (on the part of the crooks) was worked in great

All in all, in my book, this was a great comic mag.

Scott Johnson, Pittsburgh, Pa

* * * * *

Dear Editor:

To be blunt, I was a little disappointed with the latest *Giant Batman*. Although the basic idea was good, I believe better stories could have been chosen—at least, in the case of three of them. The other three were good.

"Outlaw Town, U.S.A." had an old situation as a basis—Batman and Robin against a number of criminals. But having no costumed crooks in the group was the touch that saved the story. The traps were also different from other death-traps the Caped Crusaders have been in.

"The Living Batplane" was another very different twist on the death-trap story. Another fine touch was the way the pair escaped.

"The Doors That Hid Disaster" was a story I'd heard about for a long time. Now I know why. Checkmate was a costumed villain who didn't act like most costumed crooks.

Jerry Wilson, Omaha, Neb.

* * * * *

Dear Editor:

I am advancing on my fifth year of reading your mags, and I would have to say that *Giant Batman* #228 was one of the finest collections of Batman stories I have read thus far. My favorite tales involve the Dynamic Duo escaping from some diabolically executed trap, and I certainly got my money's worth of escapes in this issue.

I especially liked "The Doors That Hid Disaster," a true classic in the field of comics ingenuity.

I noticed that all stories in this ish were from the 1950's. I was glad to see the elimination of stories from the '60's, but there is a whole decade of 1940's stories that we recent beginners have not witnessed. How about it? Why not do some real digging and perhaps come out with an all-1940's issue? At least include a few in some future Giants.

Gary Miller, Huntington, W.Va.

(As we've explained before, we simply don't have the negatives of most of the stories from the '40's. That means reproduction is quite expensive—though we've done it a few times. Most of the older tales that are available have already been reprinted, but we'll see about printing one or two others in the near future.—E.N.B.)

* * * * *

Dear Editor:

In reading #228, I noticed a gross error.

In the story "The Doors That Hid Disaster," Batman and Robin are trapped in a large cylinder and hop on motorcycles to escape by driving rapidly around the sides. Batman says, "Build up plenty of speed, Robin . . . We've got to depend on centrifugal force to support us around the barrel wall." Robin's reply: "That's right . . . the action directed from the center of the barrel will keep us from falling."

Both are incorrect, as centrifugal force is only an imaginary force thought up by the non-scientifically minded. The correct force, centripetal force, acts toward the center of the circle.

Since Batman has to have the best in scientific equipment to fight crime, I cannot see him making such an error and misleading thousands of young fans.

I realize that these stories are fictional and intended only for amusement, but such an error is inexcusable as this force is so important to everyday life. Much of Quantum Chemistry and Modern Physics depend on this force for their explanation of atomic phenomena.

I have to admit, most people would indeed agree with Batman and Robin and label me in error. Since it is a fact that defies common sense and logic, most will not accept it. There are demonstrations and mathematical derivations which can be done to prove its existence. Just for a laugh, see how many people in your office believe in the imaginary force and I'll be willing to bet it is 90%+.

William F. Goldsmith, Teaneck, N.J.

(Our dictionary indicates you're right. However, it defines centrifugal force as "the force outward exerted by a body moving in a curved path; the reaction of centripetal force." In other words, it's not centrifugal force that keeps a body moving in a curve, but the body exerts such force. Therefore, it's not what most people think it is, but it's not wholly imaginary, either.—E.N.B.)

* * * * *

Dear Editor:

I would like to see accurate identification of the artists who drew the old stories. In *Giant Batman* #228, "The Living Batplane" and "The Doors That Hid Disaster" are both signed Bob Kane; yet, in the former, machinery is highly detailed and people move with grace and fluidity. In the latter, machinery is less detailed (compare this story's Batmobile dashboard with the Batplane's cockpit in the other story) and everybody looks stiff. I remember that both styles appeared contemporaneously in 1957-58-59; thus, there can be no question of Bob Kane's style periods. These were clearly drawn by different artists, yet we were never told why their identity was hidden.

Who were these men who signed themselves Bob Kane? The public is ready for the truth, you know.

Paul L. Tremblay, Brighton, Mass.

(And we're giving it to you. As creator of the Batman, Bob Kane's name appeared on all stories originally, although he hadn't the time to draw them all. That's why Dick Sprang, who drew "The Living Batplane," used the Bob Kane name on his story. In the future, we'll identify artists when we can be sure that someone other than Bob did a job, as in the case of "The Death-Cheaters of Gotham City," in this issue—with art by Jim Mooney. —E.N.B.)

* * * * *

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